

Brain Power!



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Marijuana

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Marijuana can be smoked or eaten after being cooked into foods. The active drug in marijuana is a chemical known as tetrahydrocannabinol or THC. THC increases heart rate, which can cause a feeling of panic. Marijuana can cause problems with thinking and problem solving, as well as problems with learning and memory. Marijuana can also increase risk of lung infections.

Alcohol

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Alcohol is a drug found in drinks like beer and wine. Drinking too much alcohol makes a person drunk, which can cause memory, concentration, and coordination problems. It is illegal for people under 21 years of age to drink, and for a person of any age to drive a car drunk. Long-term alcohol abuse can cause addiction and damage many of the body's organs.

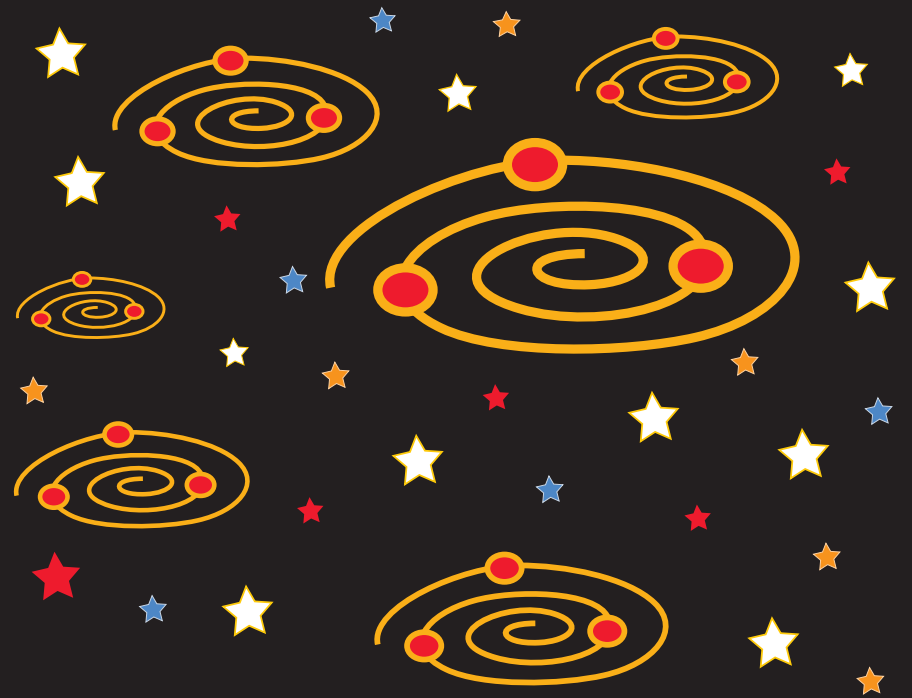
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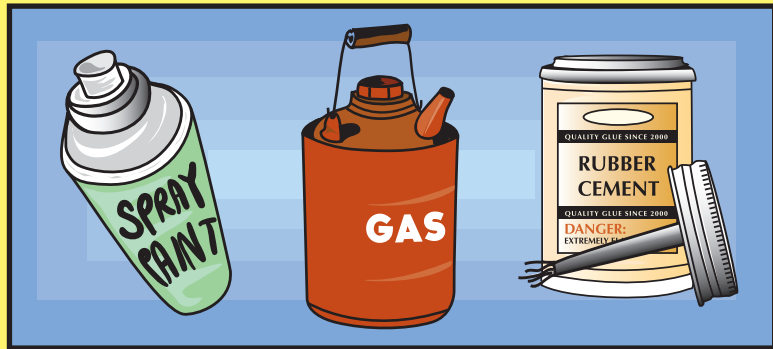


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Inhalants

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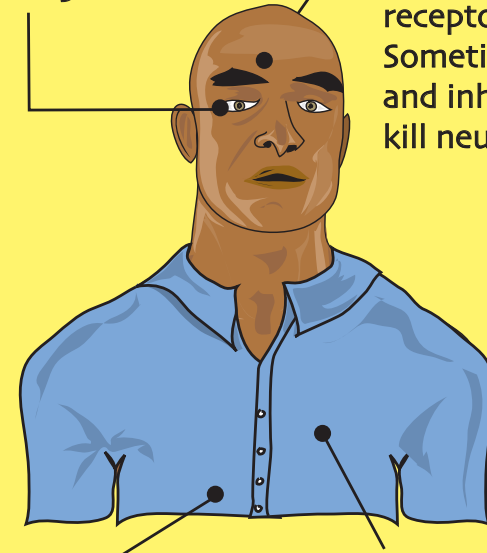
Items with very strong odors, like spray paint, gasoline, and model glue, are examples of inhalants. When the chemicals in these items are inhaled on purpose, they decrease activity in the brain. The chemicals also change the structure of myelin, the insulation that covers the axons in neurons, causing decreased coordination. Inhalants also can prevent oxygen from reaching the brain, which can cause neurons to die. Inhalants can cause a person to have a heart attack, or even suffocate and die.

Effects of Alcohol, Marijuana, and Inhalants

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EYES: Alcohol, marijuana, and inhalants make a person feel slow and drowsy. This can make it hard to stay alert and do complicated tasks, like driving a car.

BRAIN: Alcohol, marijuana, and inhalants attach to receptors in the brain. Sometimes, alcohol and inhalants can kill neurons.



LUNGS: Alcohol and inhalants can cause a person to have breathing difficulties, which can be deadly. Marijuana can also be harmful to the lungs.

HEART: Inhalants can cause the heart to slow down. Marijuana can cause it to speed up.