



#8922

## THC

Grade Levels: 8-13+  
35 minutes

CAMBRIDGE EDUCATIONAL 1999

### DESCRIPTION

Cannabinoids are perspective-altering drugs produced from *Cannabis sativa* (the hemp plant). Marijuana, hashish, and hash oil are three cannabinoids containing the psychoactive substance THC. The amount of THC affects the potency of each. Focuses on the history, use, characteristics, and symptoms of these three drugs. Includes personal testimonies, expert opinions, and a review.

### ACADEMIC STANDARDS

#### Subject Area: Health

- ◆ Standard: Understands aspects of substance use and abuse
  - Benchmark: Knows the short- and long-term consequences of the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs (e.g., physical consequences such as shortness of breath, cirrhosis, lung cancer, emphysema; psychological consequences such as low self-esteem, paranoia, depression, apathy; social consequences such as crime, domestic violence, loss of friends)

### INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To present the history of marijuana use.
2. To list short- and long-term side effects of different THC derivations.
3. To identify different slang terms for marijuana.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

#### The History of Marijuana

Marijuana (*Cannabis sativa*) is not a new drug. The first written records date it to 4,000 years ago in China. From there, use spread to India and neighboring countries. Asian Indians initially limited the use of cannabis to religion, referring to it as sacred grass. Gradually, its use spread to the common people who used it as an intoxicant.

Early Hindus used cannabis for a variety of purposes, including leprosy and fever. They also felt it was useful for creating energy and stimulating the mind. Hindus and Muslims also employed it to treat constipation, dandruff, hemorrhoids, obesity, asthma, urinary tract infections, loss of appetite, inflammation, and cough.

From India, the use of cannabis spread to surrounding countries and the Middle East, then to Europe and the Americas.

Initially hemp was cultivated in early America as a fiber crop for making rope, and was not used for its psychoactive properties by early American settlers.

Around 1910 Mexican farmers began smuggling marijuana across the border for poor Black and Mexican workers in Texas and Louisiana, who used it for its mind-altering effect. In 1920, marijuana use was prevalent in the United States. By 1930, marijuana was available in most of the larger cities.

During the 60s and early 70s, marijuana use reached epidemic proportions as it became a popular drug among young people.

## AFTER SHOWING

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### Discussion Items and Questions

1. What is the scientific name of the hemp plant?
2. Discuss ways the hemp plant is used legally.
3. What are *cannabinoids*?
4. What is *THC* and what does it stand for?
5. How does THC affect the body? What side effects does it produce?
6. How long does THC stay in your system?
7. Why are chemically synthesized versions of THC manufactured?
8. What three illegal drugs are produced from the hemp plant? What do they look like and how are they used?
9. Give some slang terms for marijuana.
10. How does marijuana affect the brain?
11. What are some long-term effects associated with marijuana use?
12. What does the term "gateway drug" mean?
13. Describe some effects and side effects of hashish.
14. What is the THC concentration of hashish?
15. Describe some effects and side effects of hash oil.
16. What is the THC concentration of hash oil?
17. What is *toxic psychosis*?
18. What long-term effects do all cannabinoids produce?
19. What withdrawal symptoms are associated with the use of cannabis?
20. Why would marijuana or hashish appeal to potential users?
21. Do you think using marijuana or hashish is dangerous? If not, when could it become dangerous?
22. Discuss the medical/social debate surrounding marijuana legalization.
23. Who could you go to if you or a friend had any questions or problems about marijuana or hashish?



## RELATED RESOURCES

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### Captioned Media Program

- Hallucinogens #8748
- Why Say No to Drugs? #2147
- You Can Say No to a Drink or a Drug #2149



### World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid-safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **STREET DRUGS**

<http://www.streetdrugs.org/>

Presents eleven warning signs of violent student behavior, has numerous clear photographs of illegal drugs, and other drug-related information and topics.

- **THE NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE FOR ALCOHOL AND DRUG INFORMATION**

<http://www.health.org/>

Numerous topics on various kinds of illegal drugs. Explains marijuana, drug abuse, fact sheets; links to "Teens," "Tips for Teens," and many other areas of interest. Click on <http://www.health.org/govpubs/phd688/> for an informative site on "A Guide for Teens."

- **MARIJUANA: FACTS FOR TEENS**

<http://www.nida.nih.gov/marijbroch/marijteens.html>

Answers frequently asked questions about marijuana use, such as "Does marijuana affect school, sports, or other activities?" "How can you tell if someone has been using marijuana?" and several others.