

Marijuana has many common names → Pot, weed, grass, joint, blunt, Mary Jane, MJ, nuggets, reefer, skunk, dope, herb = **marijuana**

Marijuana contains **THC**, which is its most active component. **THC** affects brain development, meaning that it can have serious effects on adolescents, whose brains are still developing.

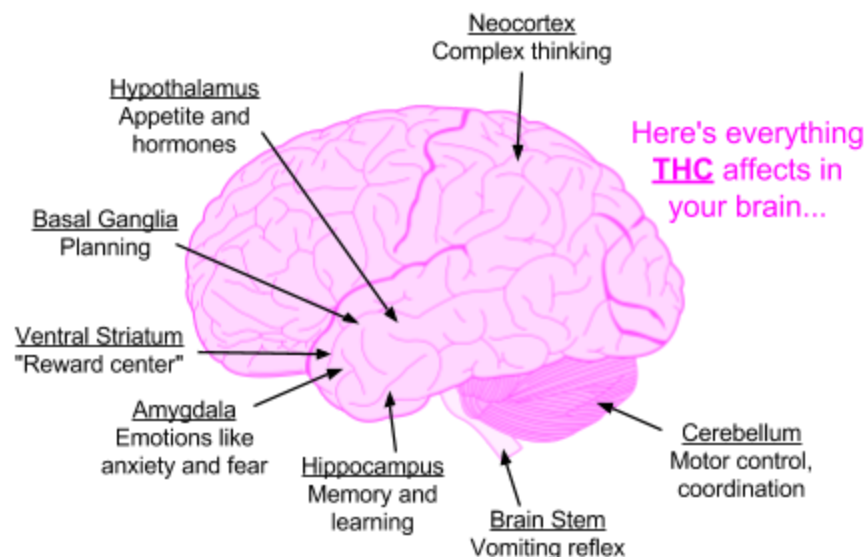
THC AND THE BRAIN:

- **THC** works by disrupting a chemical called "anandamide" in the brain.
- Anandamide helps communication in brain regions responsible for motivation, learning, memory, appetite, mood, planning, judgement, motion, and pain. Anandamide is very important for brain development.
- **THC** reorganizes wires in the developing nervous system (Kano et al, 2009; Keimpema et al, 2010). **THC** also disrupts development and maintenance of connections that are critical for executive and cognitive functions (Kittler et al, 2000).
- The effects of **THC** are prolonged and powerful.

ADDICTION:

- Long-term addiction rates to **marijuana** are 5-6 times higher if a teenager starts using it before age 14.
- **Marijuana** use increases the risk of using other illegal drugs.
- **Marijuana** potency and **THC** concentrations are rising rapidly.
- **Marijuana** and opioids have parallel effects on the brain like lowered blood pressure, lowered body temperature, and reduced pain.

YOUR BRAIN ON THC:



YOUR BODY ON THC:



Stomach feels empty, causing "the munchies"



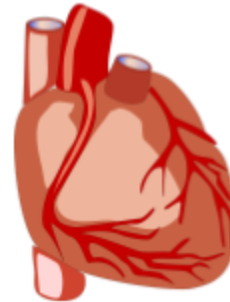
Lungs get irritated, as well as a higher risk of lung cancer, bronchitis, and emphysema



Mouth gets dry



Eyes get foggy, bloodshot, and unfocused



Heart beats faster, increasing risk of heart disease

WATCH:

1. <http://ed.ted.com/on/RTVlzOgm>
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FsJzCdFlpyQ>