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DARBY FOX
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MARIJUANA HAS MANY COMMON NAMES

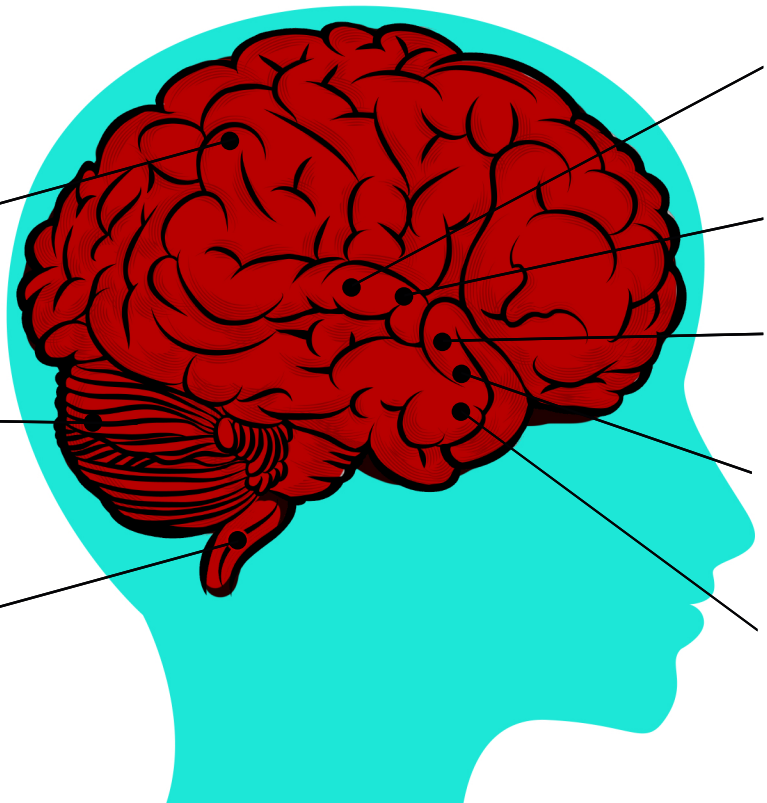
Pot, weed, grass, joint, blunt, Mary Jane, MJ, nuggets, reefer, common names skunk, dope, herb = **marijuana**

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.

YOUR BRAIN ON THC

Here's everything THC affects in your brain...



Neocortex
Complex thinking

Cerebellum
Motor control, coordination

Brain Stem
Vomiting reflex

Hypothalamus
Appetite and hormones

Basal Ganglia
Planning

Ventral Striatum
"Reward center"

Amygdala
Emotions like anxiety and fear

Hippocampus
Memory and learning

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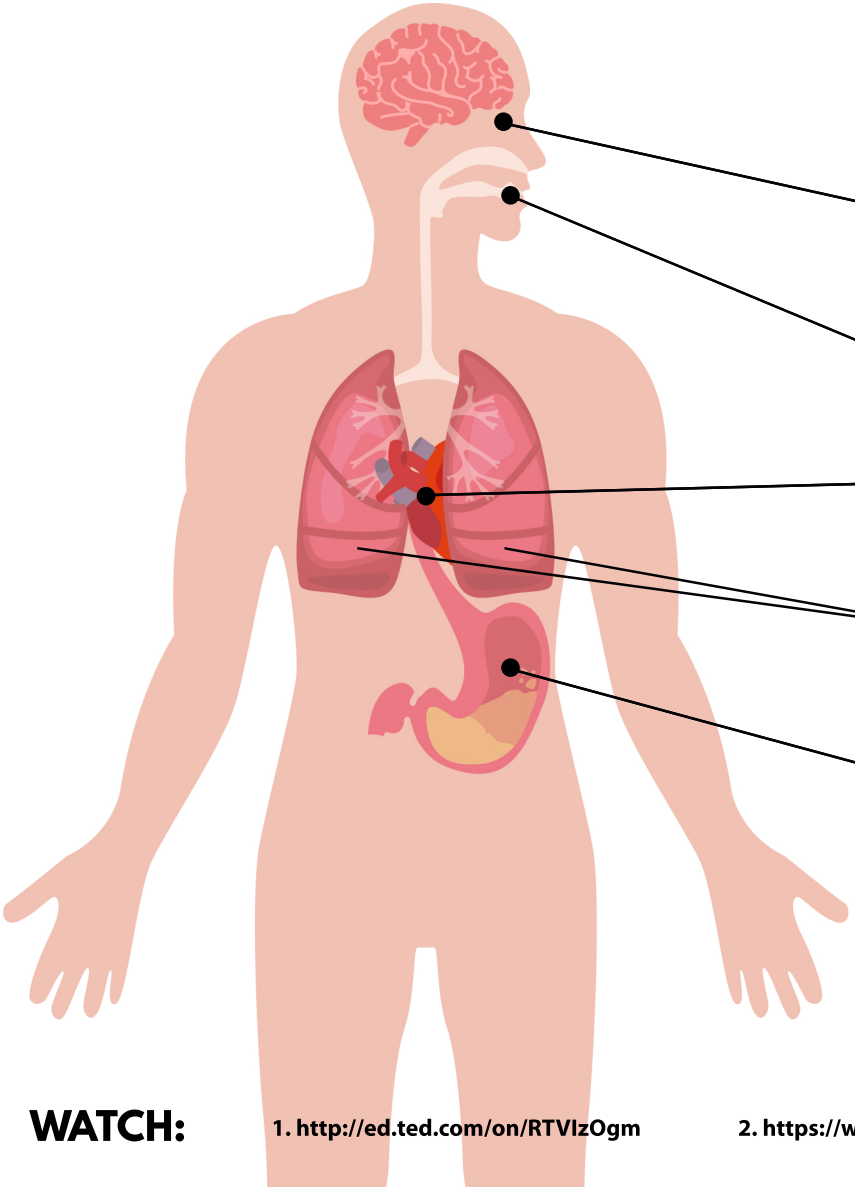
ADDICTION:

- 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 BODY ON THC



Eyes
get foggy, bloodshot, and unfocused

Mouth
gets dry

Heart
beats faster, increasing risk of heart disease

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

Hippocampus
Memory and learning

WATCH:

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