

# Illicit Drugs Activity Guide Grade 6-12



# Know Your Neuro

## Brain Quiz!

- 1) What are illicit drugs? **Answer:** Illegal substance sold by drug dealers or the abuse of prescription medications.
- 2) Which of the following is not a way to measure the harm of a drug? **Answer:** E
  - A. Intoxication
  - B. Dependence
  - C. Withdrawal
  - D. Tolerance
  - E. All of these are ways to measure the harm of a drug
- 2) Match the word below with its definition.  
**Answer:** A-c, B-d, C-a, D-b
  - A. Hallucinogens \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. Methamphetamine \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. Heroin \_\_\_\_\_
  - D. Ecstasy (MDMA) \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. A derivative of opium in a white, gray, or black powder that is injected, snorted, or smoked.
  - b. A synthetic combination of a stimulant and hallucinogen
  - c. Drugs that cause visual and auditory hallucinations.
  - d. A highly addictive stimulant that causes a false sense of happiness and confidence followed by a severe crash

- 3) What is “denial” in terms of illicit drug use?  
**Answer:** When someone refuses to believe that they have a problem. Users may blame others, deny their use causes harm, and/or reinterpret bad consequences as positive.
- 4) Match the words below with the definition.  
**Answer:** A-b, B-c, C-d, D-a
  - A. Steroids \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. Pain Medications \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. Inhalants \_\_\_\_\_
  - D. Cocaine \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. A stimulant extracted from coca leaves mixed in a powder.
  - b. Drug derived or synthesized from testosterone sometimes abused by athletes to increase muscle mass.
  - c. Prescription drugs used to relieve pain commonly called opioids.
  - d. Vapors or fumes produced from toxic substances found in many common household products.
- 5) Why do people try illicit drugs when they know how harmful they are?  
**Answer:** They may mistakenly think everyone does them, want to fit in, escape their problems, relax, have fun, or are curious.

## Activities

### Discussion

Ask students to discuss the following questions in class or in small groups:

- What would you do if someone you knew and cared about experimented with illicit drugs or abused their prescription meds?
- Do you know someone who is in denial about their illicit drug problem? How do you feel about it?
- If someone told you it was safe to use their prescription meds, how would you respond?

### Create a Video

Ask small groups of students to choose an illicit drug or prescription medication then create a 3-minute educational video about the dangers of using or abusing the drug.

### Poster Project

Ask small groups of students to choose an illicit drug or prescription medication then create a poster with images and information about the short- and long-term effects of the drug.

### Journal Writing

Give students this journal entry prompt, “My personal experience with illicit drugs is...” Encourage students to write about an experience with illicit drugs that involved self, a family member, friend, classmate, or character in a tv show/ movie. Encourage students to express their thoughts/feelings regarding why the person may have used drugs and why they will personally “say no” to illicit drugs in the future. Ask students to think about their personal goals as they ponder reasons to say “no.”