Fun Facts Challenge: National Marijuana Awareness Month – Steered Straight Event

Marijuana Awareness

Language Arts

Here's Your Challenge!

Read the theories below. On a separate sheet of paper, write three paragraphs explaining which reason you believe is the most likely cause of teen marijuana use in your community.

Here are a few theories:

- Exposure to marijuana may affect the brain, particularly during development, which continues into the early 20s. Effects may include changes to the brain that make other drugs more appealing. Animal research supports this possibility—for example, early exposure to marijuana makes opiate drugs (like Vicodin or heroin) more pleasurable.
- Someone who is using marijuana is likely to be in contact with other users and sellers of other drugs, increasing the risk of being encouraged or tempted to try them.
- People at high risk of using drugs may use marijuana first because it is easy to get (like cigarettes and alcohol).

Social Studies Here's Your Challenge!

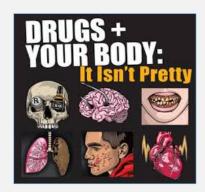
This month is the original National Marijuana Awareness Month. Steered Straight challenges you to create an event either at your school or one of the middle schools in your district. Steered Straight can has a list of resources you can use to help make your event awesome and effective.

- 1. Talk to your teacher to see what day and time you would like to hold a Marijuana Awareness event. Give us a call when you have a tentative date
- 2. Find out what resources we have or can get to make your event awesome.
- 3. Sit back and watch the first half film we have prepared for your class education (Marijuana X). Write down any questions or discussions you would like to have.
- 4. Present your question in a 10-minute end of class discussion.

Here's Your Challenge!

Art

Draw a picture that personifies the symptoms of Marijuana use listed in the teacher's toolbox



Submit your posters to the social studies teachers in your grade to help decorate the National Marijuana awareness event they are planning

Fun Facts Teacher Toolbox

Does marijuana use lead to other drug use? Long-term studies of drug use patterns show that very few high school students use other illegal drugs without first trying marijuana. However, many young people who use marijuana do not go on to use other drugs.

Fun Facts Teacher Toolbox



Contact Steered Straight for Marijuana X Movie and presentation booking availability.

856-691-6676

Fun Facts Teacher Toolbox

In the short-term, marijuana can cause:

- problems with learning and memory
- distorted perception (sights, sounds, time, touch)
- poor motor coordination
- · increased heart rate

Health

Here's Your Challenge!

- 1. Write a list of driving behaviors that may be impaired by smoking marijuana.
- 2. Write a list of potential outcomes of driving under the influence of marijuana.



Science/Math

Here's Your Challenge!

Write a scientific hypothesis that explains why you believe the effects of marijuana vary depending on the individual.



Geography

Here's Your Challenge!

- 1. Research marijuana use amongst teens in your state.
- 2. Compare your state's use to the use found in other surrounding states.
- 3. Make a graph that shows the contrast.

Fun Facts Teacher Toolbox

Driving - Marijuana is unsafe if you are behind the wheel.

Marijuana is the most common illegal drug involved in auto fatalities. It is found in the blood of around 14 percent of drivers who die in accidents, often in combination with alcohol or other drugs. Marijuana affects a number of skills required for safe drivingalertness, concentration, coordination, and reaction time—so it's not safe to drive high or to ride with someone who's been smoking. Marijuana makes it hard to judge distances and react to signals and sounds on the road. And combining marijuana with drinking even a small amount of alcohol greatly increases driving danger, more than either drug alone.

Fun Facts Teacher Toolbox

Psychosis/Pan High doses of marijuana can cause psychosis or panic when you're high.

Some people experience an acute psychotic reaction (disturbed perceptions and thoughts, paranoia) or panic attacks while under the influence of marijuana. This usually goes away as the drug's effects wear off. Scientists do not yet know if marijuana use causes lasting mental illness, although it can worsen psychotic symptoms in people who already have the mental illness schizophrenia, and it can increase the risk of long-lasting psychosis in some people.

Fun Facts Teacher Toolbox

How Legal is Marijuana?

MARIJUANA USE &

EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES







the scenarios.

Fun Facts Challenge: National Marijuana Awareness Month – Steered Straight Event

Marijuana Awareness

Social Studies Art **Language Arts** Here's Your Challenge! Here's Your Challenge! Here's Your Challenge! 1. Read each of the three questions located in This month is the original National Marijuana Create a collage of pictures, symbols and the "Think It Through" section. Instruct Awareness Month. Steered Straight words that show the ways you believe students to use the facts they have learned challenges you to create an event either at marijuana most affects people. Make to "think through" each of the scenarios your school or one of the middle schools in them colorful and creative. your district. Steered Straight can has a list and answer the questions. of resources you can use to help make your Your school may be able to use your 2. Use the facts provided in writing out their event awesome, fun and effective. collage for the Marijuana Awareness responses. Answer with details? Event being planned in Social Studies. 1. Talk to your teacher to see if Steered 3. Raise your hand to read their answers aloud and then lead a class discussion on each of

- 4. Write their own scenario involving marijuana. Provide responses to the scenarios based on their new knowledge of the risks and dangers associated with marijuana use.
- Straight could provide a date and/or resources to help you plan your event.
- 2. Arrange to collect collage decorations from your grade's art instructors.
- 3. Sit back and watch the second half film we have prepared for your class education (Marijuana X). Write down any questions or discussions you would like to have.
- 4. Present your question in a 10-minute end of class discussion.



Fun Facts Teacher Toolbox

Click Link to Display Marijuana Facts Activity

 $\underline{http://headsup.scholastic.com/sites/default/files/}$ block/images/NIDA9-PTG_Activity1.pdf

> **NIDA** See Answer Key in Footnotes

Fun Facts Teacher Toolbox



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Fun Facts Teacher Toolbox

Some people feel nothing at all when they smoke marijuana. Others may feel relaxed or "high." Some experience sudden feelings of anxiety and paranoid thoughts (even more likely with stronger varieties of marijuana). Regular use of marijuana has also been linked to depression, anxiety, and a loss of drive or motivation, which means a loss of interest even in previously enjoyable activities. Its effects can be unpredictable, especially when mixed other drugs.

Health

Here's Your Challenge!

- 1. Write a 3-paragraph letter to your lower classmates.
- 2. Explain how a reduced IQ due to smoking marijuana, could affect their personal goals and their future as a whole.
- 3. If you would like, ask your teacher to review your letter and share it with a younger student to encourage them not to use drugs.

Science/Math

Here's Your Challenge!

Discuss the meaning of the following terms found in the paragraph from the Teacher's Toolbox below:

Pneumonia Lung Infection Toxic Gases Harmful Tiny Particle Lungs Tobacco Smoke Lung Cancer



Geography

Here's Your Challenge!

Look at the map of the states below that have legalized marijuana.

Write a paragraph describing their proximity.

Based on observance of the map, write whether you believe the states may have been influenced by the neighboring states in their legalization decisions.

Fun Facts Teacher Toolbox

Marijuana is linked to school failure.

Marijuana's negative effects on attention, memory, and learning can last for days and sometimes weeks—especially if you use it often. Someone who smokes marijuana daily may have a 'dimmed-down' brain most or all the time. Compared with their peers who don't use, students who smoke marijuana tend to get lower grades and are more likely to drop out of high school. Research even shows that it can lower your IQ if you smoke it regularly in your teen years. Also, longtime marijuana users themselves report being less satisfied with their lives, having memory and relationship problems, poorer mental and physical health, lower salaries, and less career success.

Fun Facts Teacher Toolbox

How does smoking marijuana affect the lungs?

Someone who smokes marijuana regularly may have many of the same breathing and lung problems that tobacco smokers do, such as a daily cough, and a greater risk of lung infections like pneumonia. As with tobacco smoke, marijuana smoke has a toxic mixture of gases and tiny particles that can harm the lungs. Although we don't yet know if marijuana causes lung cancer, many people who smoke marijuana also smoke cigarettes, which do cause cancer—and smoking marijuana can make it harder to quit cigarette smoking.

Fun Facts Teacher Toolbox

"How Legal is Marijuana?"



https://teens.drugabuse.gov/blog/post/ how-legal-marijuana

Fun Facts Challenge: National Marijuana Awareness Month – Steered Straight Event

Marijuana Awareness

Language Arts

Study the editorial cartoon from the Teacher Toolbox.

Here's Your Challenge!

Try to identify both obvious and hidden messages in the cartoon before answering the questions below.

- 1. The word "media" is written on the television set in this picture. What does this portray to you?
- picture. What does this portray to you?

 2. What does the image of the arm and its actions symbolize?
- 3. What is the most obvious message of this editorial cartoon?
- 4. Editorial cartoons also have subliminal (hidden) messages. Imagine if this cartoon were portraying YOU in the chair. What message is the cartoon telling you?
- 5. Think about the messages—both obvious and subliminal—that you get from popular culture, whether it is a TV show, a chart-topping song, or a post on a website. How does this editorial cartoon apply to those messages and how you should perceive them?

Social Studies Here's Your Challenge!

List 10 reasons teens should not want to weed to be legalized in your state.



- tate.
- 3._____
- 4._____
- 6._____
- 8._____ 9.

Here's Your Challenge!

Art

Study the editorial cartoon from the Teacher Toolbox.

- 1. What is the most obvious message of this editorial cartoon?
- 2. Draw a picture that shows the reverse. Your drawing should show how you believe the media should be getting its information, instead of the way it is portrayed in the cartoon.
- 3. As you are called, explain the depiction in your cartoon.

Fun Facts Teacher Toolbox



 $\frac{\underline{http://headsup.scholastic.com/teachers/marijuana-}}{\underline{download-the-facts-lesson-3-think-it-through}}$

Fun Facts Teacher Toolbox

There's been a lot of talk about legalizing marijuana. Some states that have done so already (or are debating to) and you wonder what does that mean for you?

Recreational marijuana First, if you're a teen, it's never legal to use marijuana recreationally (that is, just to get high). Marijuana is also still illegal under U.S. federal law, even in states that have passed laws to make it legal under state law. Confused yet? Okay, so what about those state laws?

The <u>District of Columbia</u> and four states (<u>Alaska, Colorado, Oregon</u>, and <u>Washington</u>) allow adults to use marijuana recreationally. While the laws in these places vary, all of them prohibit people under the age of 21 from using marijuana recreationally.

https://teens.drugabuse.gov/blog/post/how-legal-marijuana

Fun Facts Teacher Toolbox



http://headsup.scholastic.com/teachers/marijuanadownload-the-facts-lesson-3-think-it-through

Health

Here's Your Challenge! Study and Remember These Facts

- Marijuana use interferes with attention, motivation, memory, and learning. When used heavily during the teen years, it can
- lower grades and your IQ.

 2. Exposure to secondhand marijuana smoke rarely results in a
- contact high.

 3. Serving sizes for marijuana edibles are confusing—it's easy to
- eat much more than a person means to, with bad side effects.

 4. Marijuana doesn't make you more creative—it just makes you think you are.
- 5. Marijuana can make dogs ill, causing serious medical issues such as injury, dehydration, anxiety, lethargy, impaired balance, vomiting, or diarrhea. A few have even died from eating it.
- Drugged driving is dangerous, illegal, and happening more and more. The risk of being in an accident doubles after marijuana
- Over three-quarters of the students surveyed in the Monitoring the Future study (and four-fifths of 8th graders) said they disapproved of people using marijuana regularly.
 Spice, also known as K2, is not fake marijuana. In fact, some
- 8. Spice, also known as K2, is not fake marijuana. In fact, some effects of Spice are much more intense than those of marijuana and have even been linked to deaths.9. The Food and Drug Administration approve a small number of
- The Food and Drug Administration approve a small number of medications that contain THC. They are used for treating nausea and appetite problems caused by cancer chemotherapy and AIDS. Marijuana's other chemical—cannabidiol or CBD also is being studied for potential medical uses, including treatment for seizures.
- 1. 10. Ancient healers used cannabis in religious ceremonies—not

Science/Math

Here's Your Challenge!

Make a compare and contrast between natural marijuana and synthetic marijuana like the K2/Spice.



Geography

Here's Your Challenge!

Research the Marijuana laws in your state and then answer the question below.

Question

There's been a lot of talk in the U.S. lately about legalizing marijuana. Maybe you've heard stories in the news about some states that have legalized weed (or are debating whether to do that) and wondered, what does that mean for you?

How does your state currently regulate marijuana use and abuse?

Fun Facts Teacher Toolbox

Have students put the list away and try writing as many of the 10 facts they can remember.

https://teens.drugabuse.gov/blog/post/10-things-you-can-learn-about-marijuana-drugs-health-blog

Fun Facts Teacher Toolbox

What is K2/Spice and how does it affect the brain?

K2/Spice refers to a wide variety of chemical-coated herbal mixtures that have effects like marijuana and that are often sold as both a "safe" and a "legal" alternative to that drug—neither is true. Although the labels on K2/Spice products often claim that they contain "natural" psychoactive material taken from a variety of plants, chemical analyses show that their active ingredients are synthetic compounds, made artificially. Although we do not yet fully know Spice's effects on the human brain, these compounds act in the same brain areas as THC, the main ingredient in marijuana. However, some chemicals in Spice—often of unknown origin—may produce more powerful and unpredictable effects, like extreme anxiety, paranoia, and hallucinations

Fun Facts Teacher Toolbox

First, let's get the obvious out of the way: If you're a teen, it's never legal to use marijuana recreationally (that is, just to get high).

Marijuana is also <u>still illegal</u> under U.S. federal law, even in states that have passed laws to make it legal under state law. Confused yet? Okay, so what about those state laws?

Look up your state's laws regarding marijuana use and share with the class.

https://teens.drugabuse.gov/blog/post/how-legal-marijuana

daily users.

Fun Facts Challenge: National Marijuana Awareness Month – Steered Straight Event

Marijuana Awareness

Social Studies Language Arts Art Here's Your Challenge! Here's Your Challenge! Here's Your Challenge! Choose a popular song or music video that mentions drugs 1. Know that it's never legal to use marijuana Pick one of the side effects listed in the or portrays drug use. Remember, even if it isn't said recreationally (that is, just to get high). teacher's toolbox. Draw a picture that explicitly, there may be hidden messages in the song that depicts one of the ways marijuana affects suggest that marijuana, tobacco, alcohol, or other drugs are no big deal. Fill in the blanks below, then answer the 2. List some of the uses that marijuana has the lives of its users. questions to learn more about the messages you may be been used in an acceptable manner in our getting about marijuana or other drug use. country. Name of song/video you are analyzing: Intended audience of song/video: Main theme of song/video: How many times are drugs or drug use mentioned/ portrayed in the song/video? Indicate whether the drug reference is positive (e.g., "cool," "fun," "not dangerous") or negative (e.g., "not cool," "not fun," "dangerous"). 1. What messages about marijuana, other drugs, or drug use are mentioned/portrayed in the song/video? 2. Based on the information from the chart above, is the overall message about drugs positive or negative? 3. What information about marijuana or other drug use was omitted from this song/video? 4. Are any of the messages about drugs in this song "hidden"? If so, what are the hidden messages? **Fun Facts Teacher Toolbox Fun Facts Teacher Toolbox Fun Facts Teacher Toolbox** Just how often are you exposed to messages How is marijuana likely to affect you? Use the link below to guide students as about drugs and alcohol? If you listen to the Learning: Marijuana's effects on attention and they learn to discern the difference between same song every day, several times a day, for memory make it difficult to learn something new the various uses for marijuana. months, does it start to influence how you or do complex tasks that require focus and think about drugs and alcohol, and the choices concentration. you make? Sports: Marijuana affects timing, movement, and coordination, which can harm athletic performance. https://teens.drugabuse.gov/drug-Judgment: Marijuana, like most abused facts/marijuana substances, can alter judgment. This can lead to risky behaviors that can expose the user to sexually transmitted diseases like HIV, the virus that causes http://headsup.scholastic.com/teachers/marijuana-AIDS download-the-facts-lesson-4-analyzing-media-messages Science/Math Health Geography Here's Your Challenge! Here's Your Challenge! Here's Your Challenge! Make a list of all the states that have STUDY AND REMEMBER THESE FACTS 1. Marijuana use interferes with attention, motivation, memory legalized Marijuana In your own words, write a letter to younger and learning. When used heavily during the teen years, it can 1. lower grades and your IQ. 2. Exposure to secondhand marijuana smoke rarely results in a students discouraging Marijuana use. Be sure to disclose some of the pertinent contact high. facts from the statistics read from the 3. Serving sizes for marijuana edibles are confusing—it's easy to eat much more than a person means to, with bad side effects. 4. Marijuana doesn't make you more creative.. 5. Marijuana can make dogs ill, causing serious medical issues such as injury, dehydration, anxiety, lethargy, impaired balance, vomiting, or diarrhea. A few have even died from eating it. Teacher's Toolbox. 6. Drugged driving is dangerous, illegal, and happening more and more. The risk of being in an accident doubles after use. 7. Over three-quarters of the students surveyed in the Monitoring the Future study (and four-fifths of 8th graders) said they disapproved of people using marijuana regularly. 8. Spice, also known as K2, is not fake marijuana. In fact, some Research to find how legalized Marijuana effects of Spice are much more intense than those of marijuana and have even been linked to deaths. impacts crime rates. The Food and Drug Administration approve a small number of medications that contain THC. They are used for treating nausea and appetite problems caused by cancer chemotherapy and AIDS. Marijuana's other chemical—cannabidiol or CBD—also is being studied for potential medical uses, including treatment for seizures. 10. Ancient healers used cannabis in religious ceremonies not as a party drug **Fun Facts Teacher Toolbox Fun Facts Teacher Toolbox Fun Facts Teacher Toolbox** Marijuana is addictive. Have students put the list away and Guide students as they explore any try writing as many of the 10 facts they Of course, not everyone who smokes marijuana will correlation between states that have can remember. become addicted—that depends on a whole bunch legalized marijuana and crime rates. of factors—including your family history (genes), the age you start using, whether you also use other drugs, your family and peer relationships, success in https://teens.drugabuse.gov/blog/post/10-things-youschool, and so on. Repeated marijuana use can lead can-learn-about-marijuana-drugs-health-blog to addiction—which means that people have trouble controlling their drug use and often cannot stop even though they want to. Research shows that approximately 9 percent, or about 1 in 11, of those who use marijuana will become addicted. This rate increases to 17 percent, or about 1 in 6, if you start in your teens, and goes up to 25-50 percent among