



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## What does marijuana do to the brain?

We know a lot about where marijuana acts in the brain and how it affects specific sites called **cannabinoid receptors**. Most of the cannabinoid receptors are found in parts of the brain that influence pleasure, memory, thinking, concentration, sensory and time perception, and coordinated movement. That's why marijuana produces the effects that it does. We know much less about what happens to the brain long-term when someone is a regular marijuana smoker.

### Areas of the Brain Affected by Marijuana



## PREVIEW

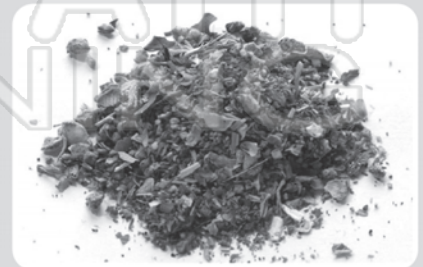
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- difficulty with thinking and problem solving
- possible loss of IQ points
- disrupted learning and memory
- increased risk of mental health problems such as depressions & anxiety

## 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 similar to marijuana. They are often sold as a “safe” and “legal” alternative to marijuana—neither is true.

Chemical analyses show that their active ingredients are synthetic compounds, made artificially. These compounds act in the same brain areas as THC, the psychoactive ingredient found in marijuana. However, some chemicals in Spice may produce **more powerful and unpredictable effects**, like extreme anxiety, paranoia, and hallucinations.





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