

Lesson 1

Learning Intention

To understand the effects, risks and law relating to cannabis

Learning Outcomes

To know what effect cannabis can have on your health and life

To know the legal consequences of using cannabis

Resources

[Cannabis Facts Teacher Guide](#)

[Cannabis Facts Quiz](#)

[Peer Pressure Strategy cards](#)

[Anonymous Questions template](#)

Activities

1. Ground Rules

In a circle, ask the class questions to help establish some rules for these lessons. Ensure you include the following: listen to each other; treat each other with respect (this includes no laughing at each other, taking turns, no personal questions); only say things you don't mind people knowing about.

2. Introduction

Tell the children that the focus of these lessons is drugs and keeping safe. Remind them that in Year 5 they looked at a range of legal and illegal drugs. Ask the children to name any drug they can think of, note these on the board asking if they are legal or illegal.

3. Ranking Use

In pairs, ask the children to talk to their partner and write what they think are the three, most commonly used drugs in the UK. Ask the class to share their responses and ask why they thought that was the case, (the correct order is alcohol, tobacco, cannabis). Explain that in this lesson the focus will be on cannabis as this is the most commonly used illegal drug. Ask the pupils to word storm everything they have heard about cannabis.

4. Cannabis Facts Quiz

In pairs, hand out the [Cannabis Facts Quiz](#). Ask the children to complete the true/false column. Display the quiz on the whiteboard and go over the answers with the whole class, taking time to discuss each point. Refer to the [Cannabis Facts Teacher Guide](#) for extra information.

5. Why people choose to use cannabis

Ask the class, knowing what they now know, why do they think cannabis is still the most commonly used illegal drug? Note the responses. In 2011 20% of under 15s had tried cannabis once. Why do they think the remaining 80% chose not to? Ask the class to word storm possible reasons why teenagers don't use drugs and write them on the board. Share the research findings on 'Why Young People Don't Use Drugs' in the [Cannabis Facts Teacher Guide](#). Ask the children if there are any surprises on the list. Ask them to reflect for a moment if any of the reasons given would prevent them from using a drug in the future.

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6. Resisting Pressure

Explain to the class that this activity involves role play. Read out the following scenario: two children find some cannabis, one wants to use it, the other one doesn't. In pairs, ask the children to improvise what happens next. Ask for volunteers to share their drama with the whole class. Discuss the strategies used for resisting pressure. Give each pair a [Peer Pressure Strategy card](#) (see [Cannabis Facts Teacher Guide](#) for guidance) and ask them to improvise the scene again. Ask the pairs if the strategy made any difference to the outcome of the role play.

7. Reflect and Review

Ask the class what they have learnt during the lesson. Using the [Anonymous Questions template](#) ask the children to complete the sentence: *After the lesson I wanted to know ...* This can be any question that they may have about cannabis that they feel has not been covered in the session. Reassure the class that if they haven't got a question they can leave it blank. The questions should be placed in a box at the front of the classroom and they will be answered in the next lesson.