

# **Fact Sheet**

## **Cocaine**

Cocaine affects many different parts of the brain, including the brain stem, limbic system, and cerebral cortex. Cocaine makes the heart beat faster and makes blood pressure go up. It can change the way someone feels and acts. It also makes it harder for people to make smart decisions. Cocaine changes the way neurons talk to each other. It fools the brain into thinking there's too much of the neurotransmitter dopamine, so the brain doesn't make as much dopamine as it should. Then there isn't enough dopamine in the brain, and the neurons need cocaine to work correctly. Cocaine is a very addictive drug, so when people use it, they often find it really hard to stop.

### **Think about . . .**

1. What parts of the brain and nervous system do cocaine affect?
2. How could you use your model of the brain to show how cocaine affects the brain?
3. How could you use your neurotransmission model to show how cocaine affects communication?
4. What kind of poster could you make to show how cocaine affects the brain?
5. If you could write one message about the dangers of cocaine, what would it be?

# **Fact Sheet**

## **Marijuana**

Marijuana affects several parts of the brain, including the limbic system, cerebral cortex, and cerebellum. Marijuana can make it harder to remember things, think clearly, and solve problems. It also changes the way neurons talk with each other. Marijuana can also have some negative effects on health. When a person uses marijuana, he or she increases the risk of harming the lungs and developing lung cancer. Marijuana is an addictive drug that changes the way the brain functions. Once the brain has been changed by marijuana, it can't work normally without it.

### **Think about . . .**

1. What parts of the brain does marijuana affect?
2. How could you use your model of the brain to show how marijuana affects the brain?
3. How could you act out how marijuana affects the brain?
4. If you could write one message about marijuana, what would it be?