



The good and bad of drugs

Background knowledge

When you are ill, you may need to take medicines to help you get better. A doctor or pharmacist tells you what medicine to take. Medicines contain drugs, which have an effect on your body. Some of these drugs may reduce fever, coughing, and sneezing. Others may treat an upset stomach. Alcohol and nicotine in cigarettes are also drugs, but they are not medicines. In fact, they can harm or even kill you. Some drugs, such as heroin, cannabis, and cocaine, are considered so harmful that it is against the law to own or sell them.

Science activity

Which of these drugs would you normally get from a pharmacy or druggist? Place a check mark (✓) by each one.



Science investigation

(E) Take extra care - ask an adult to supervise you.

Ask an adult to show you the warning on a packet of cigarettes. Is the warning always the same on every brand? What are the health dangers of smoking? Design your own advertisement to prevent people from smoking.

