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Hallucinogens (Drug Education Library)



Synopsis

Hallucinogenic drugs such as LSD, Peyote, Magic Mushrooms, and Ecstasy were the psychedelic drugs of choice during the 1960s. Although they all remain illicit drugs today, the controversy over their legalization remains alive among respected medical researchers as well as members of the new Rave culture. (20020601)

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 9 Up-This intelligently written, objective title provides students with detailed information. Chapters define hallucinogens and note the different types; discuss archaeologists' discoveries of evidence that they were used in spiritual rituals in most regions of the world, including ancient Greece; and explore LSD's development and experimental and recreational usage. The effects and problems associated with ecstasy and ketamine are stated as are the debates policy makers have had over the legal status of hallucinogens and problems of law enforcement. Average-quality, black-and-white photos, reproductions, and charts accompany the text; diagrams explain how the drugs work in the brain. The book concludes with source notes that include primary and secondary resources, a list of organizations to contact, an annotated list for further reading, a bibliography, and a detailed index. This well-documented title offers more information than Ann Ricki Hurwitz and Sue Hurwitz's *Hallucinogens* (Rosen, 1999) and Jane Ellen Phillips's *LSD, PCP, and Other Hallucinogens* (Chelsea, 1999).Debbie Stewart, Grand Rapids Public Library, MI
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Reviewed with William Goodwin's Marijuana.Gr. 8-12. These titles in the Drug Education Library offer a detailed, well-sourced portrait of the medical, legal, historical, and societal aspects of drug use in America. Hallucinogens traces the evolution of these drugs from Native Americans' spiritual use of peyote to the ravers' drugs-of-choice, ecstasy and Special K. The author describes the leading theory of how these chemicals work in the body and recounts their use in the past to treat everything from depression to schizophrenia. Marijuana is equally thorough, touching on topics ranging from the racist motivation behind the first marijuana laws and the substance's status as America's fourth-largest cash crop to marijuana's potential medical uses. Both books spend considerable time documenting the debate over drug legalization, including some surprising medical evidence that challenges current policy. The texts, supported by helpful source notes and a bibliography, are clearly organized and have a slightly academic tone that makes them most useful for debaters and report writers. Randy MeyerCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

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