



OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICINE SAFETY

GRADES 5-6
UNIT 2, ACTIVITY 2

SKILLS:
Analytical thinking

Johnson & Johnson CONSUMER HEALTH

Understanding the *Drug Facts* Label

Directions: Think about the discussions you've been having in class about over-the-counter (OTC) medicines and the issues that can arise from not reading and understanding the *Drug Facts* label. Use the sample label pictured here to answer the questions below. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

Think It Through

1. What kind of information might be found in the "Do Not Use" part of the "Warnings" section? Why is it important for someone to see that information?
2. What are the side effects associated with the use of this medicine?
3. What are some reasons that someone might have to contact a doctor before or after taking this medicine?
4. What section of the label tells you the correct dose?
5. What is the Poison Control Center phone number? (This is also called the Poison Help Line.)

Did you know...

Poison Control Centers are staffed with experts, including doctors, nurses, and pharmacists who can help answer questions about medicine or provide help over the phone if there's a medicine mistake or if you come into contact with a poison. Calls are free and private. **Poison Help Line: 1-800-222-1222**



Drug Facts

Active ingredients	Purpose
Ingredient A 100 mg	cough suppressant
Ingredient B 150 mg	nasal decongestant

Uses Temporarily relieves:

- coughing due to minor throat and bronchial irritation
- nasal congestion

Warnings
Do not use if you have ever had an allergic reaction to this product or any of its ingredients.

Ask a doctor before use if you have liver or kidney disease. Your doctor should determine if you need a different dose.

When using this product

- you may get drowsy
- be careful when driving a motor vehicle or operating machinery
- excitability may occur, especially in children

Stop use and seek medical help right away if allergic reaction occurs.

Keep out of reach of children. In case of overdose, get medical help or contact a Poison Control Center right away (1-800-222-1222).

Directions
■ Tablet melts in mouth. Can be taken with or without water.

Age	Dose
adults and children 12 years and older	2 tablets every 12 hours; do not use more than 4 tablets in a 24-hour period
children 6 years to under 12 years	1 tablet every 12 hours; do not use more than 2 tablets in a 24-hour period
children under 6 years of age	ask a doctor

Other information
■ store at 20°–25°C (68°–77°F) ■ keep dry

Inactive ingredients
anhydrous citric acid, aspartame, magnesium stearate, maltodextrin, modified food starch, sodium bicarbonate, D&C yellow no. 10

Questions or comments?
Call weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST at 1-800-555-5555.





Answer Key

UNDERSTANDING THE *DRUG FACTS LABEL*

1. Answers might include warnings that the medicine might cause an allergic reaction, that it should not be used when taking certain other medicines, and other reasons why a person should not take the medicine. It's important that a person read this information before taking medicine because it can help avoid preventable side effects.
2. Side effects may include drowsiness and/or excitability, particularly for children.
3. Answers may include: A doctor should be consulted before taking this medicine if you have liver or kidney disease, and before giving the medicine to children under 6 years of age. A doctor should also be consulted if allergic reaction or overdose occurs.
4. The "Directions" section.
5. 1-800-222-1222