

Instructor Page

NOTE: These worksheets feature labels from over-the-counter medications. Each worksheet is followed by comprehension questions. Provide assistance in reading the comprehension questions, but not in choosing the answers. *It is expected that students will find the reading very challenging and may not be able to answer many of the questions correctly.* These activities are meant to demonstrate to students that they may have gaps in their understanding of medication labels. Once students have tested their ability to answer the questions on their own, instructors can model how they would answer them by doing a “think-aloud.”

Questions to Encourage “Consumer” Inquiry

The questions on this page should be used after students have attempted to answer the comprehension questions for each over-the-counter medication label. Emphasize with students how to get assistance in interpreting labels from the pharmacist or from their doctor’s office.

Motion Sickness Pills

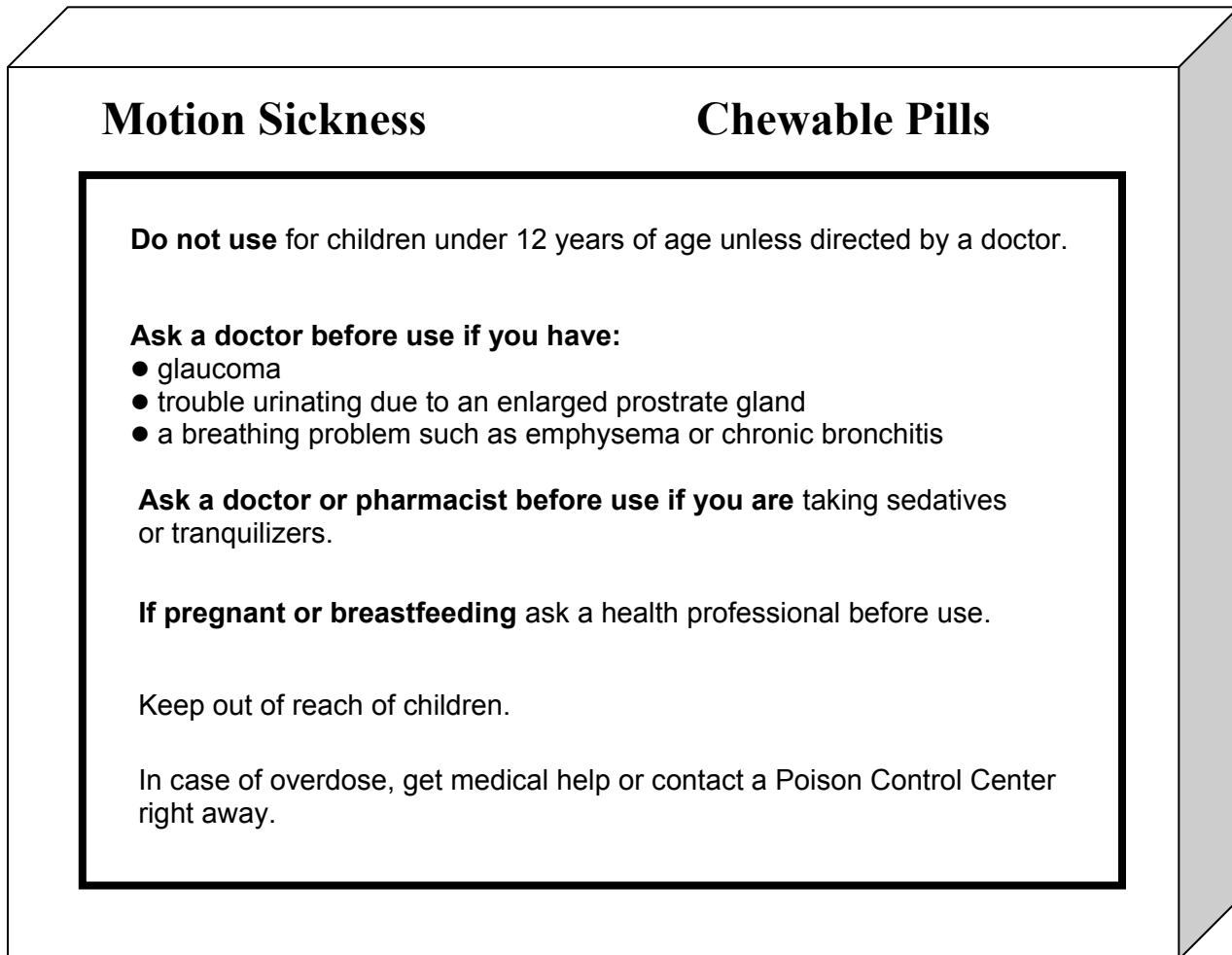
1. What is this medication used for?
2. According to this warning label, you should ask a doctor about using this medication if you have certain health conditions—which ones?
3. What is a sedative? What is a tranquilizer?
4. Can women who are breastfeeding use this medication?
5. What should you do if you or someone in your family takes too much of this medicine?
6. Who would you ask if you didn’t understand everything on this label?

Antibiotic Ointment

1. How do you use an ointment?
 2. How big an area can you use this ointment on?
 3. If you have a rash after using this ointment, what are you supposed to do?
 4. What is a puncture wound? Can you use this ointment on it?
 5. Who would you ask if you didn’t understand everything on this label?
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Reading Over-the-Counter Medication Labels

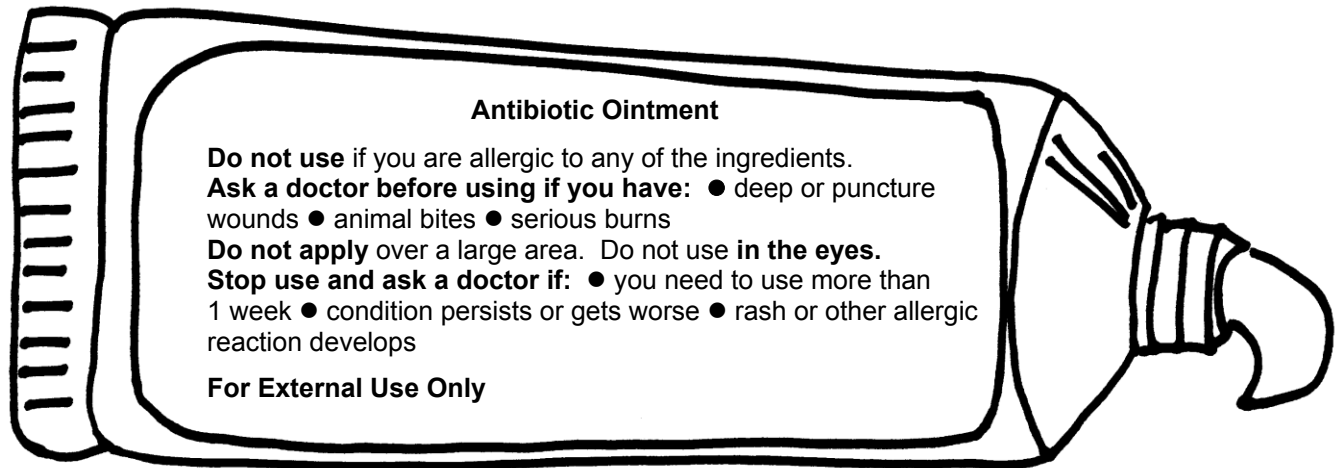
Directions: Look at the medication container and the statements below. Your teacher will read the statements aloud. Put an X under True or False. Then discuss your answers with your class.



- | | True | False |
|---|-------|-------|
| 1. You can take this medication if you are taking sleeping pills. | _____ | _____ |
| 2. You can decide for yourself if you take this medication if you are pregnant. | _____ | _____ |
| 3. You should ask your doctor before you give this to a child under 12 years old. | _____ | _____ |
| 4. If you have asthma, you should ask your doctor before you use this medicine. | _____ | _____ |
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Reading Over-the-Counter Medication Labels

Directions: Look at the medication container and the statements below. Your teacher will read the questions and answers aloud. Circle the best answer, a, b or c. Then discuss your answers with your class.



Circle the best answer.

1. If you have a cat bite, is it OK to put this medication on the bite?
 - a) Yes.
 - b) Yes, if the bite isn't serious.
 - c) Only if a doctor says you can.
 2. If your problem continues and doesn't get better after 1 week, should you keep using the medication?
 - a) Yes.
 - b) Stop using the medication and call your doctor.
 - c) You should put the ointment on a larger area.
 3. If you have a sore inside your mouth, can you use this medication on it?
 - a) Yes.
 - b) If the sore isn't deep, it's OK.
 - c) You can only use this medication on the outside of your body.
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