



Nic Nic Nicotine

Directions: Read the story, then answer the questions. Write your answer in the space provided or circle the letter next to the correct answer.

Tobacco in its natural state looks like a harmless plant with large, leafy green leaves. However, its leaves contain about 2-7% nicotine, a transparent, oily substance which is very poisonous. When tobacco is fermented to change its color and taste, the nicotine content is reduced somewhat, but it still remains highly toxic and addictive. In order to create blends of tobacco which will have unique tastes for smoking or chewing, tobacco manufacturers add other ingredients to the fermented tobacco leaves. Some of these ingredients are potent chemicals also found in rocket fuel, nail polish, car exhaust, and embalming fluid. When they combine with nicotine their effects vary on individuals, but altogether they are always toxic and addictive. Nicotine can increase the heart rate, constrict blood flow, increase blood pressure, and can act as both a stimulant and a depressant. It is a dangerous substance.

1. Nicotine is a poisonous substance which is found in:

- a. embalming fluid
- b. natural and fermented tobacco
- c. nail polish
- d. car exhaust

2. Nicotine is a substance which:

- a. is highly toxic and addictive to humans
- b. increase in concentration when tobacco is fermented
- c. is harmless in natural tobacco leaves
- d. can be easily removed from tobacco

3. What are some of the effects of nicotine on the body:

4. What type of warning information do you think should be included on products containing nicotine? Describe in detail.
