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# **Basic knowledge on HIV/AIDS/STD**

Basic questions and answers

# Grades: 5 through 12

Students can ask these questions in a group or to a partner and try to answer the questions themselves. After they can share their answers and may be provided with the correct answers. Students may compare what they know with the correct answers in order to gauge their learning levels.

#### <u>WHY?</u>

Everyone should know basic facts about HIV/AIDS/STD (Human Immunodeficiency Virus, Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, Sexually Transmitted Disease(s)).

#### WHAT IS AIDS?

AIDS is an illness that occurs in the body when its immune or defense system is weakened.

#### WHAT IS AN STD?

A sexually transmitted disease is spread by having intercourse with someone who has an infection.

#### WHAT CAUSES AIDS AND OTHER STD?

• These diseases are caused by small germs or viruses.

 $\cdot$  AIDS is caused by HIV -a virus that destroys our immune system.

#### WHO CAN GET HIV/AIDS/STD?

Anyone can catch the AIDS virus (HIV), young and old, rich and poor, big and small, man or woman.

#### WHY ARE AIDS AND OTHER STD SERIOUS?

- $\cdot$  There is no cure nor vaccine for AIDS.
- STD can cause infertility.
- · AIDS leads to death.
- · STD damages reproductive organs.

## WHY SHOULD I CARE?



- 1. You can get an STD or HIV if you take risks.
- 2. You can spread an STD or HIV if you are infected.
- 3. You could help those who have AIDS or are infected with HIV.

#### HOW DOES ONE KNOW IF ONE HAS HIV?

- $\cdot$  A blood test can tell if you are infected with HIV.
- $\cdot$  Often there are no symptoms for many years.

#### WHAT CAN I DO?

You can learn to protect yourself from AIDS and other STD.

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