

Understanding the Placebo Effect

Lesson Title: *The Placebo Effect*

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Use the resources on The Placebo Effect student E-Sheet to help you answer these questions.

The Placebo Effect E-Sheet

<http://www.sciencenetlinks.com/Esheet.cfm?DocID=204>

Hotel Maids Challenge the Placebo Effect

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=17792517>

What is the story about?

What do you think this experiment illustrates?

How do you think the researchers interpreted these findings?

Defining the Placebo Effect

Consider these questions as you discuss the placebo effect with your class:

Do you ever feel better right after taking medicine, before the treatment would have had time to work?

Have you ever heard people talk about “sugar pills”? Do you know what they were referring to?

Have you ever felt better or worse just by thinking about something?

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Research

Use this chart to keep track of your research.

Website Title and URL	Notes
Revealed: How the Placebo Effect Works: http://my.webmd.com/content/article/82/97282.htm	
The Healing Power of Placebos: http://www.fda.gov/fda/c/features/2000/100_heal.html	
Alternative Medicine: All in Your Mind: http://whyfiles.org/150alt_med2/3.html	
More Scientific Proof of the Power of Suggestion: http://www.bcx.net/hypnosis/placebo2.htm	