



TIME Magazine Article  
"What Makes Teens Tick" by Claudia Wallis  
May 10, 2004 pp.56-65

***DIRECTIONS:*** First, read the complete article "What Makes Teens Tick". Then, on your own paper, answer the following questions about the article and its content in complete sentences.

1. What six psychological disorders/diseases does this article mention?
2. When do humans achieve their maximum brain cell density?
3. When does the second wave of brain pruning (unnecessary brain cells are eliminated) take place?
4. Describe how the nature/nurture issue is illustrated in this article?
5. Which famous psychologist(s) are mentioned in this article?
6. What does the article say about the following structures?

**Neurons**

Axons-  
Dopamine-  
Myelin Sheath-  
Neurons-  
Serotonin-  
Synapses-

**Brain**

Amygdala-  
Basal Ganglia-  
Cerebellum-  
Corpus Callosum-  
Gray Matter-  
Hippocampus-  
Limbic System-  
Pre-Frontal Cortex-  
White Matter-

**Endocrine System**

Adrenal Glands-  
Estrogen-  
Pineal Gland-  
Testosterone-

7. How has the MRI and the fMRI aided the research discussed in this article?
8. Describe how the brain develops. What is the final part of the brain to grow? Why is this important?
9. How do scientists think that cognitive development is impacted by physiological (physical) changes in the brain?
10. What does brain research explain the differences between teenagers and adults with respect to:
  - decision making?
  - judgment?
  - risk taking behaviors?
  - emotional arousal?
11. When do scientists believe the brain is truly mature? \_\_\_\_\_ years old
12. What could be the possible consequences of this new information?
13. Briefly describe the seven rules for parents of teens?