Understanding the Drug Facts Label

Directions: Think about the discussions you’ve been having in class about over-the-counter (OTC) medicines and the issues that can arise from not reading and understanding the Drug Facts label. Use the sample label on the medicine box pictured here in order to answer the questions below. Write your answers on the back of this sheet.

Think It Through

1. What kind of information might be found in the “Do Not Use” section under “Warnings”? Why is it important for someone to see that information?

2. Are there any side effects associated with the use of this medicine?

3. According to information on this label, what are some reasons that someone might have to contact a doctor before or after giving this medicine?

4. What section of the label would you refer to in order to determine the correct dose?

5. What is the poison center phone number?

Did you know? Poison control centers are staffed with experts, including doctors, nurses, and pharmacists who can help answer questions about medicines or provide help over the phone if you come into contact with a poison. Calls are free and private.