**Chapter Questions for “Napoleon’s Buttons”**

**Chapter 12: Molecules of Witchcraft**

1. Many accused witches were practiced herbalists. Why was this profession such a risky business?
2. What is digitalis? What plant does it come from? What common ailments can it be used to treat?
3. Why does folklore often depict, perhaps accurately, the toad as an animal associated with witchcraft?
4. What types of plants would supposed witches include in their “flying salves”? What were some of the characteristics of these plants? What did the chemicals in these plants have in common? Why were “flying salves” a topical ointment instead of an oral tonic?
5. Where does cocaine come from? How was cocaine originally used? What are the differences between cocaine then and now?
6. How has the structure of cocaine been used to improve aspects of the medical field today?
7. What is an ergot alkaloid? How has this chemical been associated with witchcraft?
8. What are some of the symptoms of ergotism? How is ergotism caused? How else might have ergotism had an impact on history?
9. How has ergot extract been used in the medical field?
10. Who invented LSD? What was his original purpose for inventing this drug?

**Chapter 13: Morphine, Nicotine, and Caffeine**

1. Where and when did the use of opium by humans originate? How was opium used in ancient civilizations?
2. How did the Chinese revolutionize the practice of using opium recreationally?
3. What role did opium play in China’s history?
4. How did opium play a role in bringing cheap tea to Europe and end the era of Chinese isolation?
5. Codeine and morphine are both isolated from opium. What about their structures are different? What about their medicinal effects are different?
6. What is diacetylmorphine? How does this differ from regular morphine? What is the common name for this drug? What about this drugs structure gives it these qualities?
7. Which company first marketed diacetylmorphine? What other common drug did this company market?
8. What chemical is created during heroin production? What about this chemical allows police an easy way to search for the drug?
9. Describe tobacco’s influence on the world. How did different countries respond to the growing trend of smoking, chewing and snuffing tobacco? Be sure to mention countries that supported the distribution of tobacco as well as those who were against it.
10. What affect does nicotine have on the body? What about nicotine makes it highly addictive?
11. Describe what the molecule caffeine does once inside the body. What does caffeine do that gives the human body a “caffeine buzz”?
12. Which has more caffeine, tea or coffee? Where did the practice of drinking tea originate?
13. What gives chocolate its mood altering effects? Why is chocolate not a banned substance like other mood altering drugs?
14. Explain how the cultivation of coffee led to the development of Central America.
15. **You decide:** Caffeine is currently widely available to people of all ages. Should caffeine be outlawed like heroin, restricted to adults only, like nicotine, or should it remain as available as it is today? Be sure to discuss the pros and cons of outlawing or restricting caffeine containing substances. What laws has the government already passed to restrict caffeine in certain substances? Is caffeine restricted for athletes competing at the professional level?

**Chapter 14: Oleic Acid**

1. Where did the cultivation of olives begin? What were olives used for?
2. Describe the influence olive trees have had on mythology, religion, and history.
3. Why does the structure of the triglyceride molecules in olive oil make it so appealing to those trying to prepare healthier, less fattening food?
4. Describe the method of turning liquid oils into solid margarines. Does this make margarine healthier than real butter?
5. Explain how soap molecules work. What role did olive oil play in early soap making?