

This is Steve.



Steve wants to stick his hand in capsaicin.

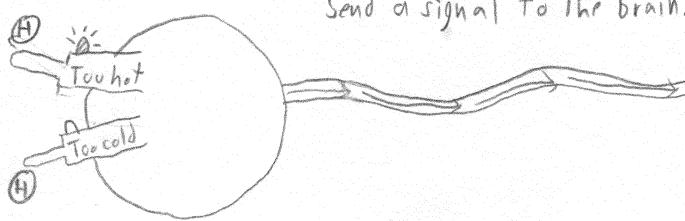


It will make him spicier: A desirable trait.

I will be more likely to be eaten by birds than rodents!

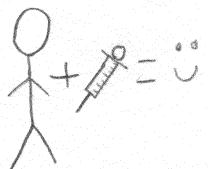
However, his hand fails to see the appeal.

In his hand, pain receptors called nociceptors will detect the compound.



The nerves, detecting heat, send a signal to the brain.

The brain will register this and Steve will collapse in pain, largely unspired.

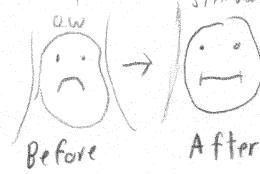


But Steve has outsmarted his evolved survival response.

First, Steve took aspirin, aspirin is an NSAID, an anti-inflammatory drug which surpasses the ability of the body to self-inflict inflammation.



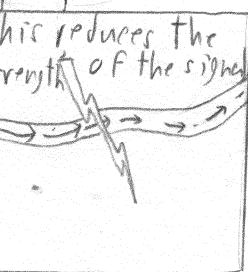
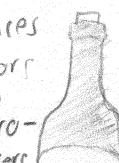
This reduces the sensitivity of nociceptors: They are more sensitive when the body is inflamed.



Next, Steve drinks.

This reduces his receptors' ability to detect neurotransmitters.

This reduces the strength of the signal.



Lastly, Steve doses morphine. This agitates receptors in his brain.



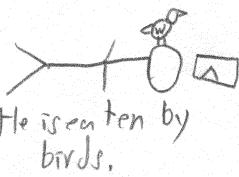
The receptors trigger a response in the brain which reduces pain sensation.

So, does Steve manage to submerge his hand in capsaicin?



He does! Steve is fully coated in capsaicin. He is less prone to fungal infections and rodents will not eat him!

He then dies of an opiate overdose caused by his drunken imprrecision & the combined effects of morphine & alcohol.



He is eaten by birds.