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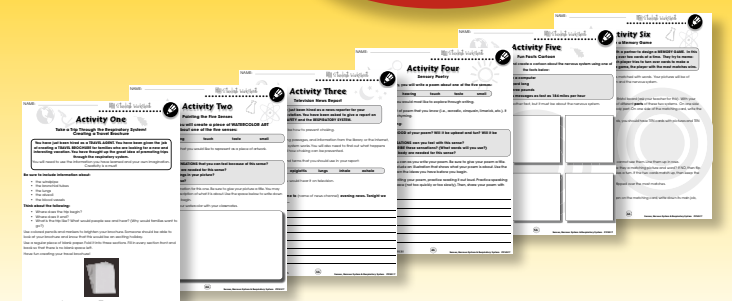
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# The Nervous System - Brain

1. Complete each sentence with a term from the list. Use a dictionary to help you.

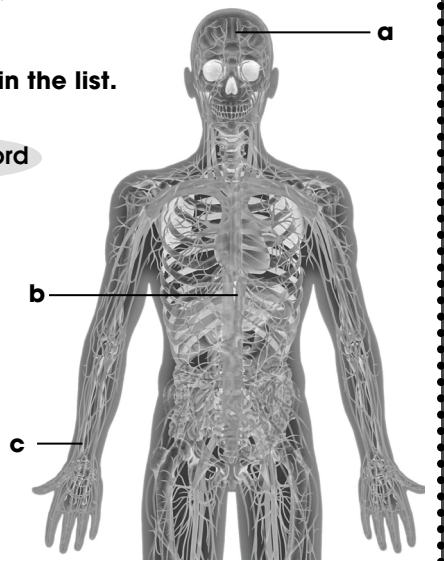
- brain    spinal cord    nerves    messages    data

- The \_\_\_\_\_ is like a computer that controls our body.
- The information that is carried along our nervous system is like computer \_\_\_\_\_.
- Important \_\_\_\_\_ about the world around us are understood in our brain.
- Our \_\_\_\_\_ is protected inside the bones of our spine.
- We have millions of \_\_\_\_\_ in our body that carry messages to our brain.

2. Label the nervous system using the terms in the list.

- nerves    brain    spinal cord

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



# The Nervous System - Brain

One of the most important organ systems in our body is the **nervous system**. The nervous system is a **network** of **tissue** that has the job of sending and carrying **messages** to all areas of our body. Our nervous system controls all our movements and reactions to the world around us. The nervous system is made of three important parts - the **brain**, the **spinal cord** and the **nerves**.



To understand how the parts of the nervous system work together, think of a **computer system**. The brain is the computer. The spinal cord is the cable carrying the messages or **data** to and from the computer. All the nerves connect to the spinal cord. These nerves carry the messages to every part of the body and also send important **information** back to the brain.

Why is the brain like a computer?



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## The Brain

The brain **manages** our nervous system. It is the control center of our body. The brain is protected inside the bones of the skull. It weighs about three pounds and is made of over 100 **billion** nerve cells. The brain has three main parts.

Brain Part	Description	What It Does
<b>cerebrum</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the large top part of the brain</li> <li>divided into two halves</li> <li>looks pinkish gray in color, is jelly-like and wrinkled</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>controls thinking, <b>memory</b>, all our <b>emotions</b> and <b>language</b></li> <li>also very important for movement</li> </ul>
<b>cerebellum</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>also called "little brain"</li> <li>sits below the cerebrum</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>important for movement, <b>balance</b> and <b>posture</b></li> </ul>
<b>brain stem</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>looks like a <b>stalk</b> that connects the brain to the spinal cord</li> <li>the simplest part of our brain.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>controls <b>involuntary</b> movements like our breathing and heart beat</li> </ul>



# The Nervous System - Brain

1. Fill in each blank with a term from the list.

- control    cerebrum    brain    protected    brain stem  
one hundred    cerebellum    three    skull

The \_\_\_\_\_ **a** manages our nervous system; it is the \_\_\_\_\_ **b** center of the body. The brain is \_\_\_\_\_ **c** inside the \_\_\_\_\_ **d** which is made up of the bones of our head. The brain weighs \_\_\_\_\_ **e** pounds and is made of over \_\_\_\_\_ **f** billion cells. The brain has three main parts: the \_\_\_\_\_ **g** controls memory; the \_\_\_\_\_ **h** controls balance; and the \_\_\_\_\_ controls involuntary movements.

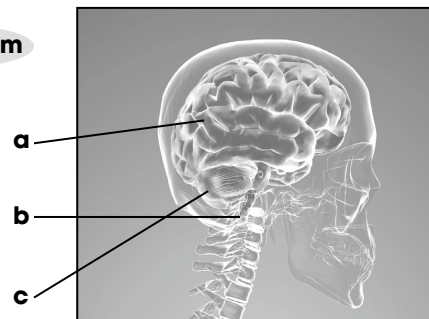
2. Underline the words and ideas that describe what the nervous system does.

- control center    carries messages    controls emotion  
helps us understand the world    controls breathing    controls posture  
helps us understand language

3. Use the information from the reading passage to label the parts of the brain.

- brain stem    cerebrum    cerebellum

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



# The Nervous System - Brain

4. What are **two** ways in which our nervous system is similar to a computer system?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What are the three main parts of the **nervous system**?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Which statements apply to which of the three main parts of the brain? Put an X in the correct box to the right of each statement.

Feature	Cerebrum	Cerebellum	Brain Stem
a) Controls language			
b) Also called "little brain"			
c) Helps with our balance			
d) Controls thinking and memory			
e) Split into two pinkish gray halves			
f) Controls our heart beat			

## Extension & Application

7. **Alzheimer's disease** is a disease of the brain that some people get in their old age. There are other **common diseases** of the nervous system. Research Alzheimer's or another disease of the brain or of the nervous system. Look for information on the Internet and in books from the library. Record your information in point form in the **Web Organizer** on the next page. Here are some questions you should find the answers to:

- What happens to the brain and/or nervous system?
- What are the symptoms?
- How is it treated?
- Are there some people who are more likely to get it than others?
- What can people do to avoid getting this disease (if anything)?
- Any other interesting facts



# Organ System Poster

We have learned about two important systems in the human body - the **NERVOUS SYSTEM** and the **RESPIRATORY SYSTEM**. You may remember that the nervous system is a lot like a computer system. The lungs (in the respiratory system) work like a train station.

For this activity, you will **create a poster** with important facts about one of these systems.

### YOUR POSTER SHOULD INCLUDE:

- a catchy title to get the reader's attention
- an illustration that shows what the system looks like (be sure to label all the parts!)
- the main job or jobs of the system
- an explanation of:
  - why the nervous system is like a computer system** OR
  - why the lungs work like a train station**
- any other interesting facts that you find

Begin by collecting important **facts** about your system. You may use the reading passages, the Internet, or other resource materials to find your information. Make your poster on a piece of Bristol board. Make it colorful, neat and organized.

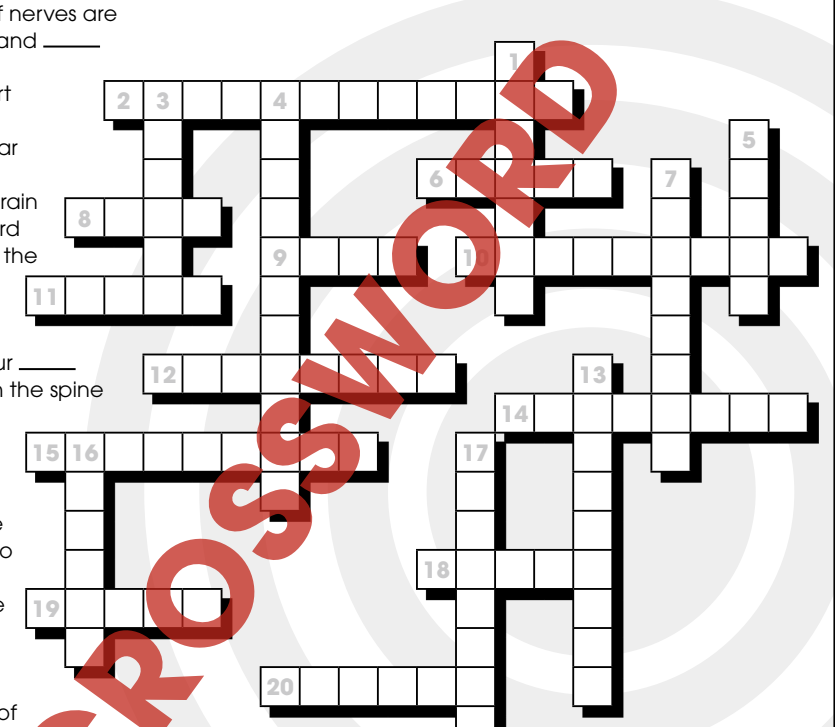
When you have it finished, **share** your poster with the class.



# Crossword Puzzle!

### Across

- The lungs work like a \_\_\_\_\_
- The two kinds of nerves are sensory nerves and \_\_\_\_\_ nerves
- The colored part of the eye
- Helps us see near and far
- Connects the brain to the spinal cord
- The ear \_\_\_\_\_ is the tube that leads into the ear
- Feeling pain is important for our \_\_\_\_\_
- A single bone in the spine
- Our mouth and nasal cavity are \_\_\_\_\_ inside our head
- The \_\_\_\_\_ nerve links the retina to the brain
- Nerve \_\_\_\_\_ are also called neurons
- The spinal cord is a thick \_\_\_\_\_ of nerves



### Down

- The cerebellum is important for balance and \_\_\_\_\_
- The back of the eye where the image is made
- The receptors in our \_\_\_\_\_ allow us to smell
- Sound enters the head through the \_\_\_\_\_ ear
- Nerves carry \_\_\_\_\_ to and from the brain
- The spinal cord is \_\_\_\_\_ by the vertebrae
- We breathe in the gas called \_\_\_\_\_
- The nervous system is like a \_\_\_\_\_

### Word List

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| bundle        | outer        |
| train station | posture      |
| lens          | nasal cavity |
| vertebra      | messages     |
| cells         | computer     |
| motor         | protected    |
| iris          | retina       |
| brain stem    | oxygen       |
| canal         | connected    |
| survival      | optic        |



# Comprehension Quiz

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### Part A

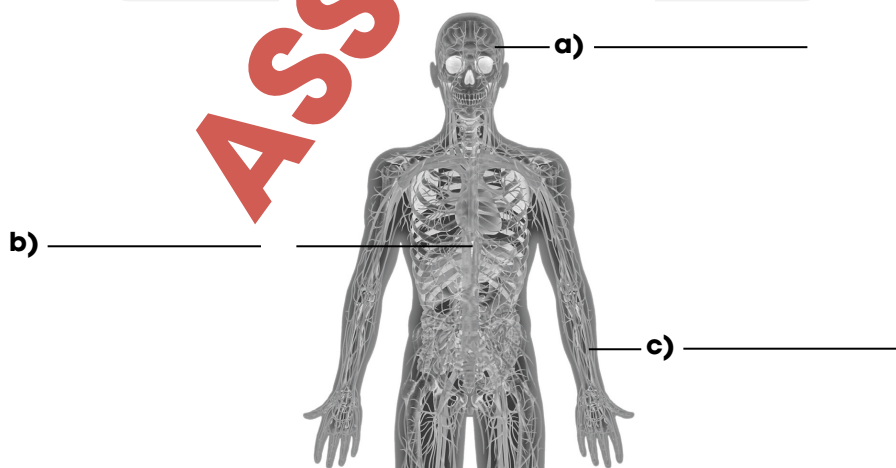
1. Circle **T** if the statement is TRUE or **F** if it is FALSE.

- T** **F** 1) Our vertebrae protect our spinal cord from damage.
- T** **F** 2) Nerve cells carry messages to and from the brain so that we can understand the world around us.
- T** **F** 3) The three parts of the brain are called the cerebrum, cerebellum and brain stalk.
- T** **F** 4) The iris is the colored part of the eye.
- T** **F** 5) The sense of taste is *not* connected to the sense of smell.
- T** **F** 6) Our lungs expand when we exhale.
- T** **F** 7) The epiglottis covers the top part of the ear canal.
- T** **F** 8) The small bones in the inner ear vibrate when sound passes by.

### Part B

Label the nervous system in the diagram below. Use the words in the list.

spinal cord      nerves      brain



SUBTOTAL: /14

# Spinal Cord



Spinal Cord and Nerves



# The Nervous System - Brain

4. What are **two** ways in which our nervous system is similar to a computer system?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

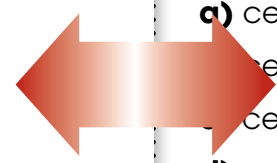
5. What are the three main parts of the **nervous system**?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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- **How is it treated?**
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- **What can people do to avoid getting this disease (if anything)?**
- **Any other interesting facts**



4.

Answers will vary

Answers will vary

12

5.

brain, spinal cord, nerves

Answers will vary

6.

13

- a) cerebrum
- b) cerebellum
- c) cerebellum
- d) cerebrum
- e) cerebrum
- f) brain stem

Answers will vary

14

7.

Answers will vary depending on resources used

Answers will vary

10

15

EASY MARKING ANSWER KEY