The Brain



Interesting facts about the human brain!

• The human brain is made up of 85% water.



- Studies have shown that children who are breast fed display IQ's up to 10 points higher by the age of three.
- Do you know why a doctor can operate on your brain while you are awake but you don't feel a thing?

Your brain is full of nerve cells, but

it has no pain receptors.





What you may or may not know

- Preservatives, coloring, dyes and artificial flavors affect IQ
 - When they were removed from the cafeteria menu researchers found that 70,000 students performed two or more IQ grade levels higher than before
- The smell of rosemary is said to enhance brain functioning
- Try and remember as many numbers as possible

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 Our working memory, short-term memory, can hold on average a maximum of seven digits.



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The Central Nervous System

2 parts: brain and spinal cord



- Simply put, the brain is a concentration of nerve tissue
- Location: inside the skull
- Purpose: Coordinating center



Cerebral Hemispheres

- The brain is divided into two sides, called hemispheres. They are called the left and the right hemispheres.
- The corpus callosum joins the two hemispheres, allowing them to communicate with each other





http://en.sommer-sommer.com/braintest/



Stroop Effect

BLUEGREENYELLOWPINKREDORANGEGREYBLACKPURPLETANWHITEBROWN

Say the ink colours.

Go to youramazingbrain.org for an explanation of this & more!

http://youramazingbrain.org/supersenses/default.htm

COLOR TEST

CONFLICT:

The right side of the brain wants to pick the color that matches the word, the left wants to choose the word written. When you make a mistake, that's the left side of the brain in action.

Left is right, right is left

- The left side of your brain controls the right side of your body and vice versa
- But, your brain combines information from both sides of your body due to communication via the corpus callosum.



How do we know what each hemisphere does?

- People who suffered from epilepsy ("brain storm" of excessive neuronal activity) had their corpus callosum cut to prevent the spread of the "epileptic seizure" from one hemisphere to the other.
- What happened to communication between the two halves?
 It stopped.



Corpus callosum

The Great Split-Brain Experiment

- Roger Sperry was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1981 for the discovery of cerebral dominance
- He studied patients who had the surgery
- At first he noticed that the patients could walk, talk and looked normal
- BUT.....

http://www.nobelprize.org/educational/ medicine/split-brain/splitbrainexp.html





"He" "art"

- The patient could only see "he" with her left eye and "art" with the right eye
- The word "he" went to the right side of the brain and "art" went to the left side of the brain
- When asked what the patient saw, she said....

• "art"

When asked to write down what she saw, she wrote he.

Chimeric faces



- If the patient focuses on the dot in the middle of the forehead, the visual information about the **woman's face** will go to the **right hemisphere** and information about the **man's face** will go to the **left hemisphere**
- When the patient is asked to point to a whole, normal picture of the face that was just seen...
 - the patient picked out the woman's picture (remember, information about the woman's face went to the RIGHT cerebral hemisphere).
 - When asked to say whether the picture was a man or a woman, the patient will SAY that the picture was of a man.

Meninges? What are they?

- Location: Between the brain and the skull
- Make up: 3 layers (dura mater, arachnoid and pia mater) (Don't memorize names of layers!)



The meninges are 3 layers of tough, elastic tissue that directly enclose the brain and spinal cord. They act as a shock absorber and protect your brain!



Meningitis

- Inflammation of the meninges
- Meningitis is caused by bacterial or viral infection of the meninges
- "Meningitis Belt" in Africa is where meningitis is very common







Cerebrospinal Fluid

 Location: Circulates between the arachnoid and pia matter

- Brain cortex Brain stem Fluid Spin al cord
- Function: acts as a shock absorber and helps to transport nutrients to the brain and wastes away from the brain
- Spinal tap? This is when a doctor extracts cerebrospinal fluid for examination
- Also found in the spinal cord





Cerebrum met Corpus Callosum

Cerebrum





- Largest part of the brain
- Most highly developed part of the brain
- Role: speech, reasoning, memory, personality
- 4 lobes: occipital, temporal, parietal and frontal
- Is divided into **2 cerebral hemispheres**
- Cerebral cortex: surface of the cerebrum
- Grey matter
- Lots of folds (fissures/folds) to increase surface area

Hypothalamus



Hypothalamus

- Regulates body temperature and metabolism
- Controls hunger, thirst, sleep and sex drive

Pituitary Gland



- "Master gland" of the body
- It controls most other glands (tropic hormones)
- Controlled by the hypothalamus



Cerebellum

- Controls limb movement, balance, and muscle tone
- Largest section of the hindbrain
- dubbed "Little brain"
- Only 10% of the mass of the brain, but contains 50% of the neurons
- Has "the tree of life" appearance





Pons and Medulla Oblongata



- Pons relay station between
- A) two sides of the cerebellum and
- B) the cerebellum and the medulla oblongata
- Medulla oblongata
 - autonomic nervous system
 - sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous system
 - heart rate, breathing, blood pressure

The Cerebral Cortex: 4 lobes!



Frontal Lobe

- Motor control \mathbf{O}
- **Controls voluntary** movements
- Link to memory, • reasoning, critical thinking, language use and personality

Parietal Lobe

- Sensor **Sensory** areas associated with touch, pressure, pain, temperature and taste
- S Also linked to recol emotions and ljudo

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interpreting speech

Temporal Lobe

 Sensory areas associated with hearing and smelling

Occipital Lobe

 Sensory areas associated with vision

Frontal lobe

- Motor control
- Controls voluntary movements
- Link to memory, reasoning, critical thinking, language use and personality
 Frontal Lobe



Phineas Gage (1823 – 1860)

- Construction foreman
- Blasted a 13 pound tamping rod through his head
- Not only did he live, but he lived for 12 more years AND even walked to the oxcart taking him to the hospital
- Damage to the frontal lobe and his left eye



Did anything bad come out of his accident?



- Underwent drastic personality change (polite and well liked to short tempered and rude)
- Lead to greater understanding of the brain
- Idea later used for lobotomies

Want to know more about Phineas?

Parietal Lobe



- Sensory areas associated with touch, pressure, pain, temperature and taste
- Also linked to emotions and interpreting speech



Temporal Lobe

Temporal Lobe

 Sensory areas associated with hearing and smelling

Occipital lobe

- Located at the back of the brain
- Sensory areas associated with vision
- Damage may cause loss of vision





What the body would look like according to the cerebral cortex?





This model shows what a man's body would look like if each part grew in proportion to the area of the cortex of the brain concerned with its sensory perception. The hands and lips dominate — but the feet are also disproportionately large, indicating their sensory importance.

Who has bigger brains?

Cell numbers

 Males have 4% more brain cells than females, and about 100 grams more of brain tissue.





Check website

Does that mean boys are smarter?

- Even though males seem to have more brain cells, females tend to have more dendritic connections between brain cells.
- A female's brain has a larger corpus callosum
- This means that females can transfer data between the right and left hemisphere faster than males.



Is it better to be a girl?

- For males, language is most often just in the dominant hemisphere (usually the left side)
- A larger number of females seem to be able to use both sides for language.
- This gives them a distinct advantage.
- If a woman has a stroke in the left front side of the brain, she may still retain some language from the right front side.
- Men who have the same left sided damage are less likely to recover as fully.



Why do girls seem to be more emotional?

- Current research has demonstrated that females, on average, have a larger deep limbic system than males.
- This gives females several advantages and disadvantages.
 - women are more in touch with their feelings, they are generally better able to express their feelings than men.
 - They have an increased ability to bond and be connected to others - which is why women are often the primary caretakers for children



Brain Song

News reporter has stroke on air?