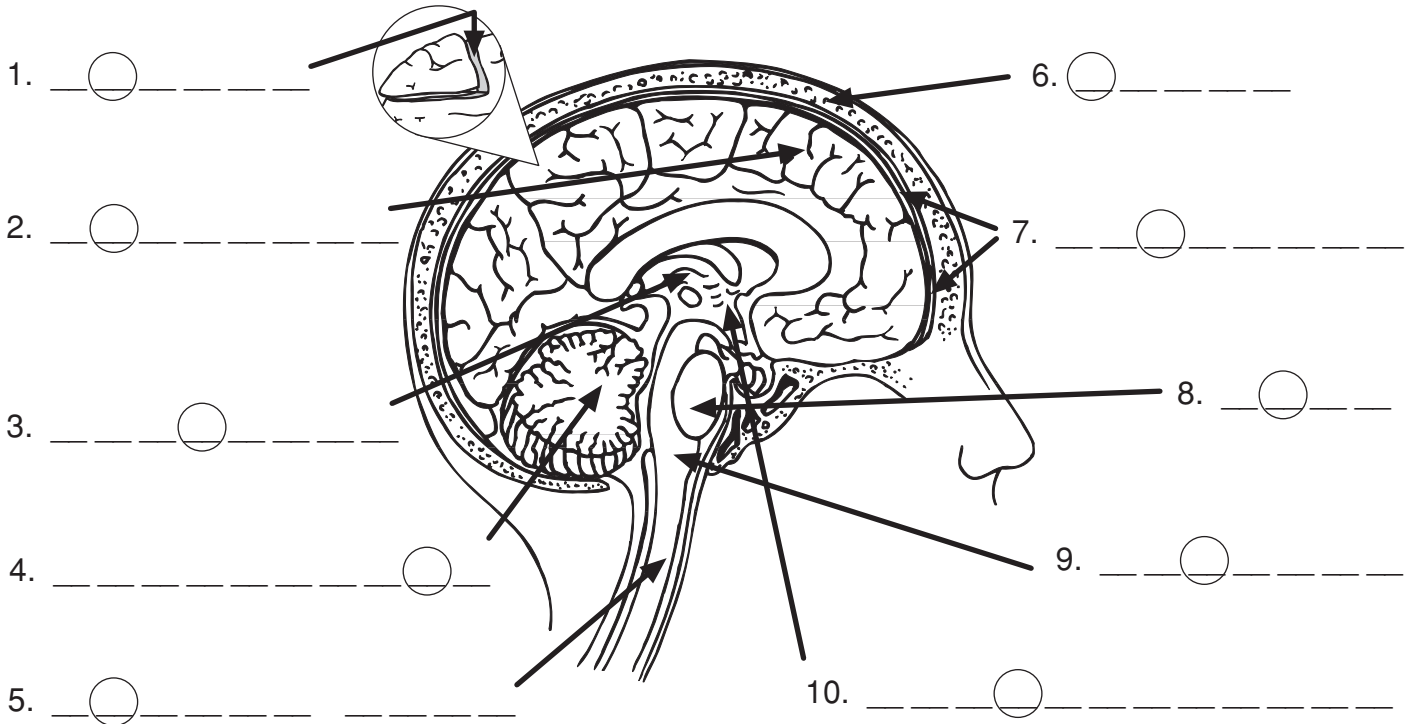


What Does Your Brain Contain?

Your brain has many parts that work together to keep you moving along...learning, playing, thinking, and feeling as you go. Learn a little about its organization by following the directions below.

Directions: Read each definition at the bottom of the page. Use the clues in the definitions to identify each brain part on the diagram. Next, write each name in the spaces provided. Then unscramble the circled letters to solve the riddle.



meninges: Two of these three membranes between the skull and the brain have fluid that softens the shock to the brain should the head get hit.

pons: This band of nerve fibers connects the back of the brain to the middle of the brain.

skull: The skull is not part of the brain, but its hard bones protect the brain by acting like a helmet.

cerebrum: The largest of three main areas of the brain, it is located at the front and top of the head. Memory, thoughts, and voluntary actions are controlled by this part.

cortex: This large, gray outer layer of the cerebrum is where most of the brain work is done. It is very wrinkled so that it will fit into the skull.

cerebellum: This wrinkled part of the brain makes sure all parts of the body work well together. It also helps with balance.

medulla: Found at the top of the spinal cord, it controls most of the involuntary actions of the body, such as heartbeat, digestion, and breathing.

spinal cord: This link between the brain and the body carries messages back and forth.

thalamus: Deep inside the cerebrum, it is first to get messages from the body about heat and cold, pain and pressure, and smell and taste.

hypothalamus: This part of the brain helps keep the body at a normal temperature. It triggers reactions such as sweating when the body is overheated. It is also involved with expressing emotions.

What is commonly called brain food? _____



Bonus Box: Scientists have discovered that when used, the brain improves. The prime time for learning new material is between birth and age 12. Stretch your brain synapses with this activity: Write "8" eight times so that when added the sum is 1,000.

Answer Key for “What Does Your Brain Contain?”

1. cortex
2. cerebrum
3. thalamus
4. cerebellum
5. spinal cord
6. skull
7. meninges
8. pons
9. medulla
10. hypothalamus

Riddle: noodle soup

Bonus Box: $888 + 88 + 8 + 8 + 8 = 1,000$