Brain Vocabulary

Central Nervous System the complex of nerve tissues that controls the activities of the body. In vertebrates it comprises the brain and spinal cord.

Peripheral Nervous System the nervous system outside the brain and spinal cord.

Temporal Lobe each of the paired lobes of the brain lying beneath the temples, including areas concerned with the understanding of speech.

Frontal Lobe each of the paired lobes of the brain lying immediately behind the forehead, including areas concerned with behavior, learning, personality, and voluntary movement

Parietal Lobe either of the paired lobes of the brain at the top of the head, including areas concerned with the reception and correlation of sensory information.

Occipital Lobe the rearmost lobe in each cerebral hemisphere of the brain

Pituitary Gland the major endocrine gland. A pea-sized body attached to the base of the brain, the pituitary is important in controlling growth and development and the functioning of the other endocrine glands.

Hypothalamus a region of the forebrain below the thalamus that coordinates both the autonomic nervous system and the activity of the pituitary, controlling body temperature, thirst, hunger, and other homeostatic systems, and involved in sleep and emotional activity.

Thalamus either of two masses of gray matter lying between the cerebral hemispheres on either side of the third ventricle, relaying sensory information and acting as a center for pain perception.

Cerebellum the part of the brain at the back of the skull in vertebrates. Its function is to coordinate and regulate muscular activity.

Cerebrum the principal and most anterior part of the brain in vertebrates, located in the front area of the skull and consisting of two hemispheres, left and right, separated by a fissure. It is responsible for the integration of complex sensory and neural functions and the initiation and coordination of voluntary activity in the body.

Reflexes an action that is performed as a response to a stimulus and without conscious thought.

Spinal Cord the cylindrical bundle of nerve fibers and associated tissue that is enclosed in the spine and connects nearly all parts of the body to the brain, with which it forms the central nervous system.

Nerve (in the body) a whitish fiber or bundle of fibers that transmits impulses of sensation to the brain or spinal cord, and impulses from these to the muscles and organs

Neurons a specialized cell transmitting nerve impulses; a nerve cell.

Axon the long threadlike part of a nerve cell along which impulses are conducted from the cell body to other cells.

Interneurons a neuron that transmits impulses between other neurons, especially as part of a reflex arc.