

Brain Lab Vocabulary

1. Brain stem - collection of cranial nerves. Composed of medulla oblongata, pons, and midbrain.
2. Cerebellum - "little brain". Controls posture, locomotion, and fine motor coordination.
3. Cerebrum - Higher functioning part of brain. Capable of advanced sensory processing and thought.
4. Corpus callosum - a bundle of white fibers that connects the two hemispheres of the brain, providing coordination between the two.
5. Cortex - grey matter on the outer surface of the cerebrum.
6. Dura mater - protective covering of the brain. Means hard mother.
7. Frontal lobe - also plays a part in smell, plus dealing with motor function
8. Grey matter - collection of nerve cell bodies.
9. Gyri - ridges in brain tissue.
10. Medulla - located right under the cerebellum where nerves cross hemispheres. This area of the brain controls the vital functions like heartbeat and respiration (breathing).
11. Midbrain - involved with audio and visual reflexes.
12. Occipital lobe - receives and interprets visual sensory messages.
13. Olfactory bulbs - control the sense of smell.
14. Optic chiasm - connects optic nerves to the brain.
15. Parietal lobe - handles all the sensory info except for vision, hearing, and smell. Handles senses such as touch, pain, temperature, balance, and taste.
16. Pineal gland - produces important hormones
17. Pituitary gland - produces important hormones, is a sac-like area that attaches to the brain between the pons and the optic chiasm.

18. Pons - serves as a bridge between the medulla and the upper brainstem, and it relays messages between the cerebrum and the cerebellum.
19. Sulci - grooves within the brain tissue.
20. Temporal lobe - is involved in hearing and smell. Plays an important part in memory.
21. Thalamus - is a 'relay station' for sensory information. It receives messages from the nerve axons and then transmits them to the appropriate parts of the brain.
22. White matter - made up of myelinated nerve axons.