



GLOSSARY OF BRAIN WORDS

- Amygala:**In the temporal lobe; seems to control aggressive behavior, handles higher functioning emotions, helps calm the hypothalamus
- Autonomic nervous system:**part of peripheral nervous system that controls things we don't have to think about like: heartbeat, breathing, etc.
- Axon:** long section of the nerve cell that carries electrical impulses to other nerve cells
- Central nervous system:** brain and spinal cord
- Cerebellum:** a large structure that bulges out at the lower end of the brain; controls movement and balance
- Cerebral cortex:** The outer layer of the cerebrum
- Cerebrum:** Large part of the brain; controls sensory, motor, and thought processes
- Convolutions:** the folds and ridges on the surface of the brain; the more, the better
- Corpus callosum:** A large bundle of nerve fibers connecting the two hemispheres
- Cortex:** six nerve cells thick (about the thickness of a quarter); contains 100 billion nerve cells at 10-11 years old
- Dentrite:** Part of a neuron that receives information; "He with the most dendrites, wins."
- Hypothalamus:** Inner area of the brain which regulates primitive emotions (anger, fear, sex drive, aggressions) food and water regulation, hormones, and body temperature
- Limbic system:** a group of brain areas involved in the control of motivated behavior and emotion
- Medulla oblongata:** part of the hindbrain that connects to the spinal cord; helps control breathing and heart rate
- Neuron:** a cell with a long thin shape and an ability to conduct electrochemical signals
- Peripheral nervous system:** the nervous system excluding the brain and spinal cord and including all other sensory and motor nerves, and Neuro-transmitters (chemicals)
- Reticular Activating System (RAS):** the attention determining part of the brain found in the hind brain; recognizes: physical needs, novelty, self-made choices, individual's name
- Spinal Cord:** important pathway of neurofibers; place where brains store learned information and routine tasks; handles reflexes
- Thalamus:** found in the mid brain; handles sensory input and prevents hallucinations