

Title: The Amazing Brain

Word Study

Fill in the blanks using the words.

nerves	skull	papyrus	strand	organs
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1. Different types of nerves allow us to feel pain, heat, and cold.
2. A baby's skull has soft spots on it when it is born.
3. The lungs are the organs that enable us to breathe.
4. This new type of electronic screen is thinner than a strand of hair.
5. Paper is better than papyrus because it lasts longer.

Reading Comprehension

A. Circle T for true or F for false.

1. The brain weighs over a kilogram. T / F
2. Axons receive signals from other nerve cells. T / F
3. Both the cerebrum and the cerebellum are divided into two parts. T / F
4. The cerebrum is in charge of memory. T / F
5. The brain stem controls the muscles. T / F

B. Circle the correct word(s).

1. Neurons are located (only in the brain / all over the body).
2. The brain has (more / fewer) neurons than glial cells.
3. The (cerebellum / cerebrum) helps us keep our balance.
4. (Plato / Aristotle) thought that the brain controlled the body.
5. Doctors might be able to use (stem cells / glial cells) to treat nerve diseases.

C. Choose the best answer.

1. The liquid in the skull helps to _____.

- a. pass signals between neurons
- b. keep the brain from shaking
- c. connect the different parts of the brain
- d. keep the brain cool

2. What are the long strands at the ends of nerve cells called?

- a. Dendrites
- b. Neurons
- c. Axons
- d. Glial cells

3. About eighty-five percent of the brain is made up of _____.

- a. glial cells
- b. the cerebellum
- c. the cerebrum
- d. the brain stem

4. Which is true about the ancient Egyptians?

- a. They thought the heart held a person's spirit.
- b. They believed the brain was important.
- c. They removed the heart from dead bodies.
- d. They knew thinking took place in the brain.

5. People learned about the three parts of the brain in

- a. the 1000s
- b. the 1300s
- c. the 1500s
- d. the 1600s

Summary

Fill in the blanks with the words.

glial	reasoning	cerebrum	brain stem	digestion
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The human brain is like a very powerful computer. It controls our thoughts, feelings, memories, and actions. Our brains are made of billions of neurons that pass signals to each other. Glial cells clean and feed neurons. The biggest part of the brain is the cerebrum, which has two lobes. It controls memory, reasoning, language, and more. The cerebellum is at the back and controls muscle movement. The brain stem is deep inside the brain in front of the cerebellum. It is in charge of things we don't have to think about, such as digestion. In ancient times, people didn't realize that the brain runs the body. They gradually learned about it over time. In the 1900s, researchers developed machines to study brain waves and drugs to control brain chemicals. The 21st century has brought many more discoveries. A new machine shows the brain in action by lighting up neurons in different colors. Researchers are learning new things about the amazing brain all the time.