



HANDOUT: ABOUT THE BRAIN | DIY Papier-Mâché Brain Caps

What is a brain?

- It is the organ that is responsible for controlling everything our body does.
- Our brain is always active, even when we sleep.
- It keeps us alive as it controls our heart beating and our breathing.

Did you know that because the brain controls most of what we do, it needs to be protected? That is why the brain lives in the skull. The skull is hard, strong, and protects the brain to do its job.

Even when you are sitting and thinking, daydreaming, planning – that is all done with the help of your brain.

The brain is responsible for receiving signals and sending signals.

Did you know that there are three layers of meningeal tissues that directly protect the brain? The outermost covering of tissue is called the dura mater and directly underlies the structure of the skull. The second and third layers are called the arachnoid and pia mater respectively.

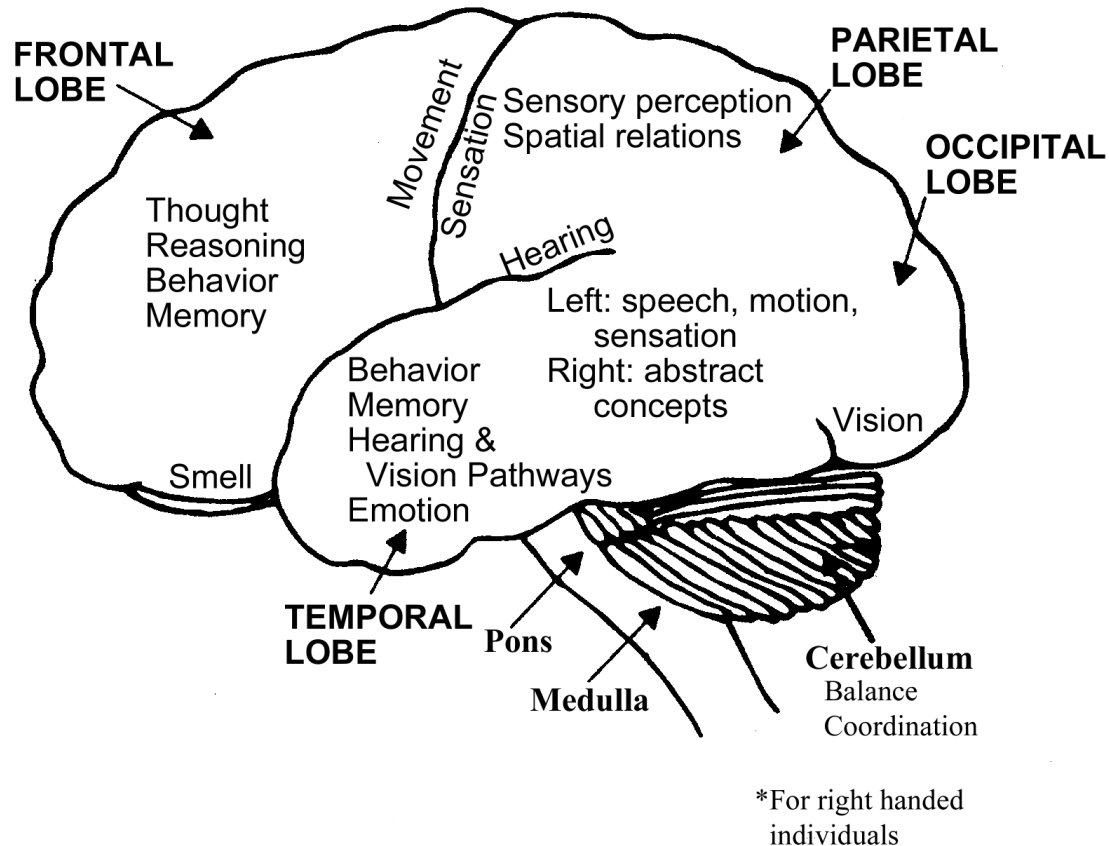
But did you know that irrespective of the protection that the meningeal layer provides the brain, the skull must be present to not only form a protective cavity for the brain but also provide musculature and structure to the face?

The cranium is the largest portion of the skull that directly protects the brain - all 22 individual bones that form the cranium are directly responsible for protecting a specific portion or lobe of the brain.





Here is a diagram of the brain. It is made up of many different parts, and each part allows us to do different things.



Cerebellum: Allows us to balance when we are standing or walking. It prevents us from tripping over our own feet. Also, when we reach for something, our cerebellum allows us to move our hand directly to the object instead of beside it. It controls our hand and eye coordination.

Occipital Lobe: Allows us to see. It processes all the images that our eyes take in and therefore allows us to see the world around us.

Frontal Lobe: Processes all our thoughts and feelings.

Temporal Lobe: Hearing and speech are located here.



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Parietal Lobe: Sensory perception and spatial relations live here.

Each part of the brain allows us to do different things.

Now what happens if you have a brain tumour? As it grows, it exerts pressure on your brain and depending upon where the tumour is located, different side effects could occur.

For example, if someone has a brain tumour located in the temporal lobe. That is where both hearing and speech are located. A tumour could prevent a person from speaking or understanding what someone else says. Also, a brain tumour can cause loss of hearing if a tumour is found in the temporal lobe.

Ask students to look at the image of the brain and consider asking questions such as:

- If someone has been diagnosed with a brain tumour and is having difficulties with balance, where in the brain might you find the brain tumour?
- If someone has been diagnosed with a brain tumour and is having difficulties with their eyesight, where in the brain might you find the brain tumour?

