

NOGGIN CLASS ONE: INTRODUCTION TO THE BRAIN

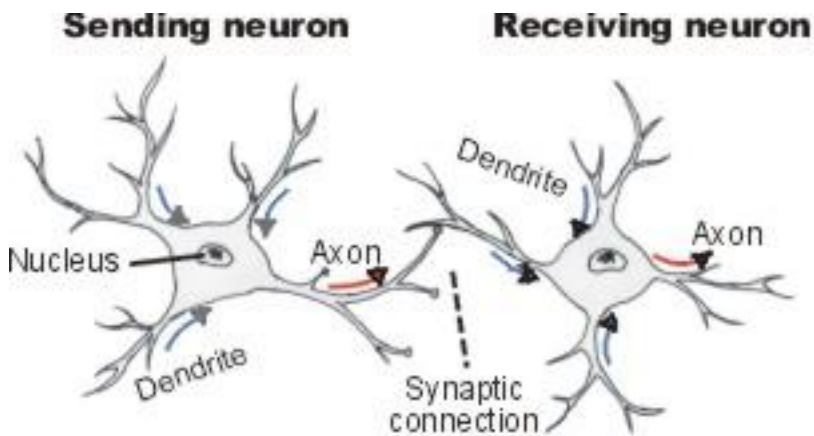
An overview of large scale structures of human and animal brains:
Real human brains in the classroom!

VOCABULARY

Nervous system

Central nervous system (CNS): brain and spinal cord

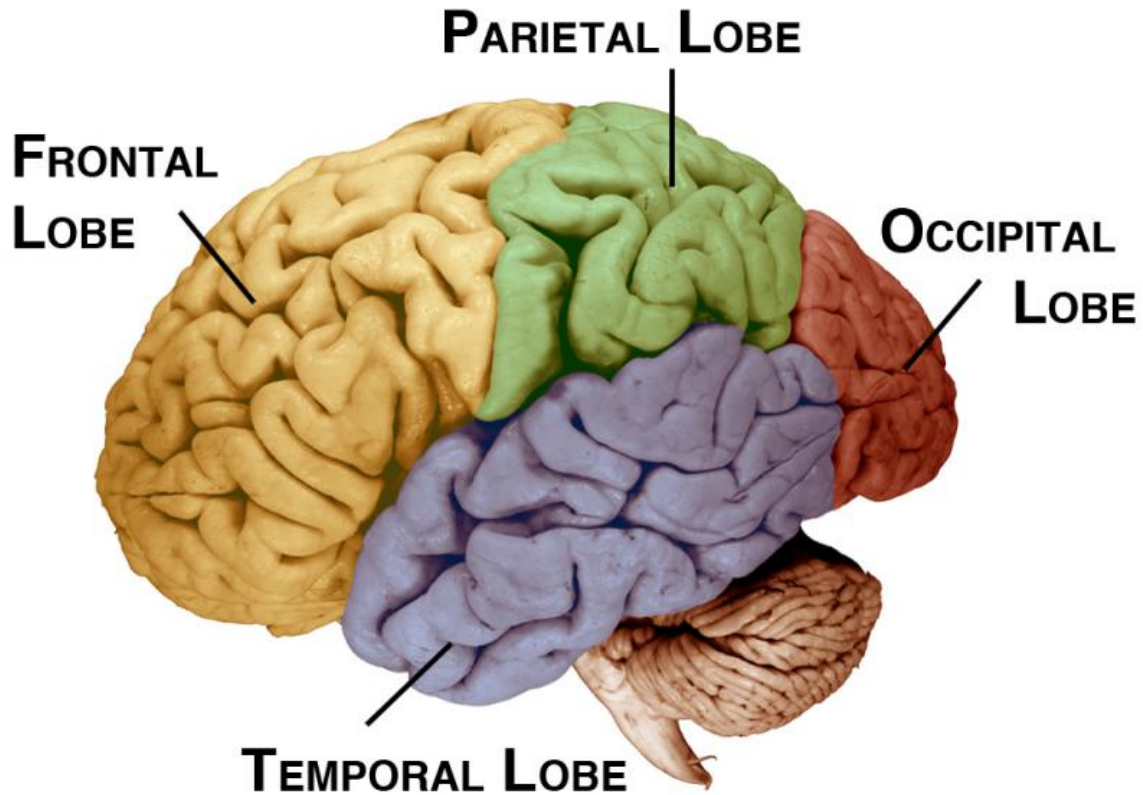
Peripheral nervous system (PNS): everything else!



Neuron: primary information processing cell in your nervous system. Adolescents have about 120 billion of these! They are strange looking cells, often with a wire-like projection (called an axon) that carries information in the form of electrical currents...

Synapse: neurons carry information electrically along their wire-like axons, but there is a gap, or space, between the end of each neurons and the beginning of the next. This gap is where neurons communicate with each other chemically - by release (from the first neuron) of a chemical called a neurotransmitter...

Cortex: outer surface of the brain, very wrinkled in humans. Lots of neurons and synapses here - important **networks** of neurons that let us feel, remember, understand, communicate, make decisions, etc...



Lobe: a great big chunk of cortex. We'll discuss FIVE of these, including the frontal, parietal, occipital, temporal and insular lobes...

