

Reading Guide

The Nervous System and Senses

This worksheet refers to “Queensland Junior Science” website. Read the notes entitled ‘Nervous System and Senses’ before answering these questions.

Overview

1. Look at the top part of the overview of the human nervous system. Key words are ‘central’ and ‘peripheral’. The word ‘periphery’ means ‘the outer boundary or the surroundings’. Where do you think the central and peripheral nervous systems are to be found?
2. The brain and the spinal cord are not only different from the sensory and motor in their position in the body but also how they are enclosed. What protects the central nervous system?
3. At the bottom right of the concept map are the terms ‘sensory’ and ‘motor’. What do the sensory nerves do?
4. If a motor in a car makes it move, what are controlled by the motor nerves?

The Neurone

5. The notes on ‘The Neurone’ talk about the small nerve cells that make up the whole of the nervous system. Read the notes and decide in which direction a nervous impulse travels – dendrites to cell body to axon or vice versa (the reverse of that).
6. Are nerve cells alive or are they ‘dead’ like electrical wires? On what information did you base your decision?

The Central Nervous System

7. 3 parts of the brain are mentioned. What are they and what are their roles?
8. Key words are ‘voluntary’ and ‘vital’. Find these words in the dictionary. What are their meanings here?