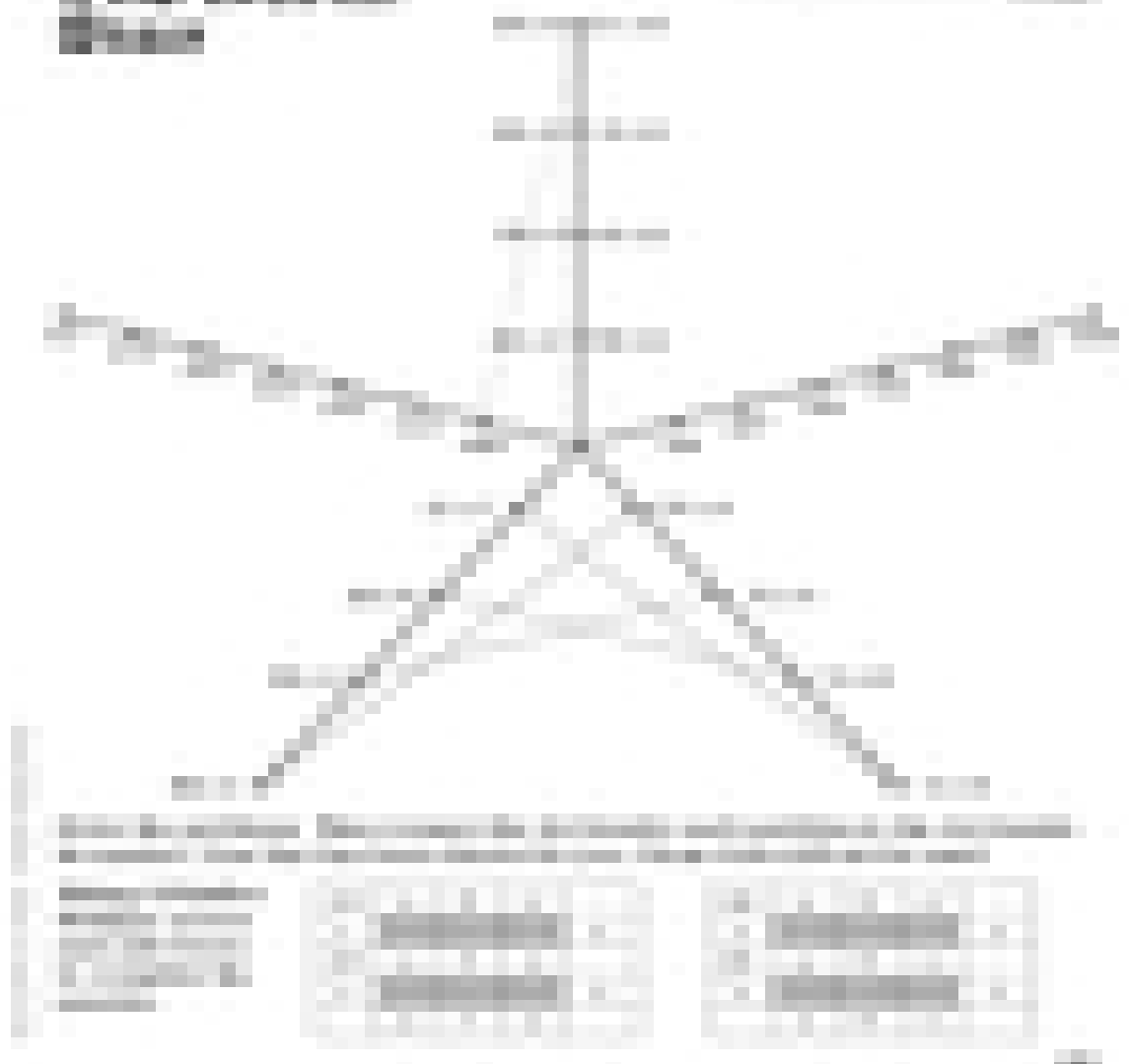


The Nervous System



The nervous system is responsible for receiving information from the environment and controlling the body's response to that information. It consists of the brain, spinal cord, and peripheral nerves. The brain is the central processing unit, while the spinal cord and peripheral nerves act as communication lines. The nervous system is divided into the central nervous system (CNS) and the peripheral nervous system (PNS). The CNS includes the brain and spinal cord, while the PNS includes all other nerves. The PNS is further divided into the somatic nervous system, which controls voluntary movements, and the autonomic nervous system, which controls involuntary functions like heart rate and digestion. The autonomic nervous system is divided into the sympathetic and parasympathetic systems. The sympathetic system is responsible for the 'fight or flight' response, while the parasympathetic system is responsible for the 'rest and digest' response.