

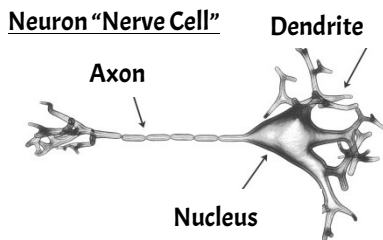
Nervous System

Brain & Nerves

Nervous System

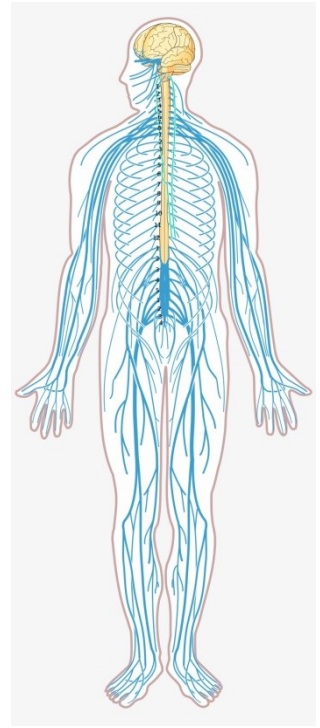
The nervous system is a complex network of nerves connected to the brain. The nervous system function is to send signals from one cell to others. The system controls the body, and it does this with the help of nerve cells (neurons) that collect information through the senses. The microscopic nerve cells send messages to the brain for analysis which then issues a response.

For example, you are standing next to a campfire that is getting hot. Your skin nerve cells sense the heat and send a message. The message travels on the “electrical” highway through the spinal cord to the brain. The brain concludes heat equals danger and sends a return message to the muscles: Move! (and go get some marshmallows).



Facts

- There are about 100 billion neurons in the brain and 13.5 million in the spinal cord.
- Neuron electrical messages travel at 100 meters per second.
- There are about 600 miles of neurons in your body.



Nervous System

Research

The nervous system is often described as the most complicated and mysterious system of the body. It controls our memory, decisions and emotions, and ensures the body keeps working when we sleep. There is much to learn! We do know the system needs potassium, sodium, and Vitamin B to properly function. When the brain and nervous system do not work properly, it can affect the entire body. This can lead to conditions like Alzheimer's disease (memory loss), epilepsy (body seizures), cerebral palsy (muscle control), and Parkinson's disease (loss of movement). These diseases effect millions of people worldwide. Medical researchers are constantly testing new medicines and therapies to treat nerve injuries and diseases. Family and friend support is also an important part of patient's treatment.

Some nervous system occupations include neurologists, neurosurgeons, and physiatry rehabilitation.

Assignment:

The average citizen does not know much about the nervous system – its purpose, how it works, or related diseases. As communications director of the Nervous System Association, it is your job to write a brief radio advertisement educating listeners. Remember, radio advertisements are succinct.

You must use exactly 45 words – no more, no less. Good luck!

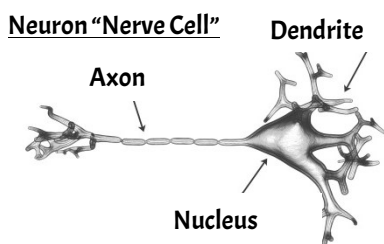
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Brain & Nerves

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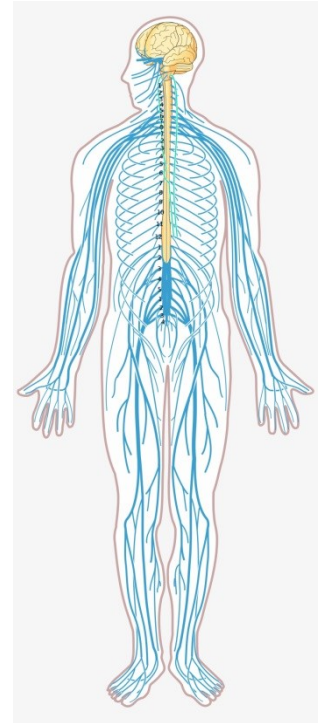
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