Nervous System Vocabulary

Central Nervous System - the part of the nervous system consisting of the brain and spinal cord. It controls thinking, movement, and emotion as well as automatic responses

Peripheral Nervous System - the part of the nervous system that includes the nerves in the body. It connects the brin and spinal cord to the rest of the body. It allows messages to be sent and received throughout the body.

Brain - is located in the skull and is responsible for everything the body does. It is made of billions of neurons, which are tiny cells that send information through synapses for the body to respond to.

Cerebellum - is a small part of the brain at the back of the head just above the spinal cord. It controls balance, coordination, and movement.

Cerebrum - is the largest part of the brain and is responsible for thinking, reasoning, and controlling voluntary movements.

Brain Stem - is located at the base of the brain and connects the brain to the spinal cord. It controls breathing, heart rate, and swallowing.

Neuron - a special cell that carries electrical signals around the body. It contains the cell body, dendrites, and an axon.

Cell Body - the part of the neuron that contains the nucleus and other organelles. It is the command center of the neuron.

Dendrite - tiny branches that grow from the neuron that grow like antenna that pick up messages from other neurons and send them to the cell body for processing response to stimuli

Nucleus - the control center of the cell that floats in the cytoplasm of the cell. It is surrounded by a membrane that protects it from the rest of the cell.

Axon - long thin fibre of nerve that carries electrical impulses from the cell body to other cells like muscles or other neurons.

Myelin Sheath - is a protective covering that wraps the nerve cell. It is made of fat and proteins which help insulate the nerve fiber allowing electrical signals to travel quickly from one nerve to the other.

Nodes of Ranvier - small gaps found along the axon of a nerve cell. They allow nerve signals to travel quickly through the body as the signal jumps from one node to another.