

The Brain Is Kind of a Big Deal

by Nick Seluk

Genre: Informational Text

Prepare to become brainier about your brain! In this humorous and fact-filled book, you'll learn how the strange, wrinkly supercomputer inside your head controls everything you do, like how you move, how you learn—even what you dream about! Check out why your brain is kind of a big deal.

LOOK FOR...



- illustrations and diagrams that will help you understand the concepts shared in the text.
- scientific terms that you may need to look up in the book's glossary.

Read • Think • Respond

SECTION 1 (pp. 2–11)

(pp. 2–4) **Learn about how your brain is like a living computer.**

On page 2, the author says the brain is the “command center of your entire body.” How does the information on page 4 support that idea?

(pp. 6–7) **Discover what neurons (noor-ahnz) do.**

How do neurons send messages to each other?

(pp. 10–11) **Focus on voluntary and involuntary functions.**

What is the difference between a voluntary and an involuntary function? Give examples.

SECTION 2 (pp. 12–23)

(p. 17) **Observe how the brain helps you see.**

What is unusual about how eyes send images to the brain? Cite the text in your answer.

Name: _____

(p. 19) **Read about why your sense of touch matters.**

Imagine tasting a spoonful of extremely hot soup. What might your brain tell you before you take another spoonful?

(p. 23) **Learn about how your brain reacts to danger.**

What message do you think your brain would send to your nervous system if you were about to cross the street and saw and heard an ambulance whizzing by?

SECTION 3 (pp. 24–29)

(pp. 24–25) **Study information about short-term and long-term memory.**

What could you do to move something you know from your short-term into your long-term memory?

(p. 28) **Focus on what your brain does for you.**

The author writes, “Your brain is pretty important.” Which details does he give to support that statement?

Write Now

Choose one of the following prompts to write about. Write your response on a sheet of paper.

Smart Moves

Think about one of your favorite games or sports. Make a list of the many ways your brain helps you as you play.

Hint: Include specific details to help readers who might not be familiar with your topic.

Thank Your Brain!

Think about everything your brain does for you. What are you most thankful for? Let your brain know how you feel by writing it a thank-you letter!

Hint: Start your letter with a friendly greeting and don't forget to end it with a closing!

For review only.
Wild Facts About Animal Brains
 Not for distribution.

Check out the information on pages 32 and 33 in your book. Complete the chart below to share the most interesting wild fact you want to remember about the brains of each group of animals.

Animals	Most Interesting Wild Fact
Dolphins	
Dinosaurs	
Leeches	
Ostriches	
Sea Squirts	
Cockroaches	
Sea Stars	
Woodpeckers	

Book Review: *The Brain Is Kind of a Big Deal*

Funniest part of the book		Page ____
What I want to learn more about		Page ____
One fact that surprised me		Page ____
New words I learned		Page ____

Fill in the stars to rate the book. Explain why you gave the book this rating.



Test Yourself

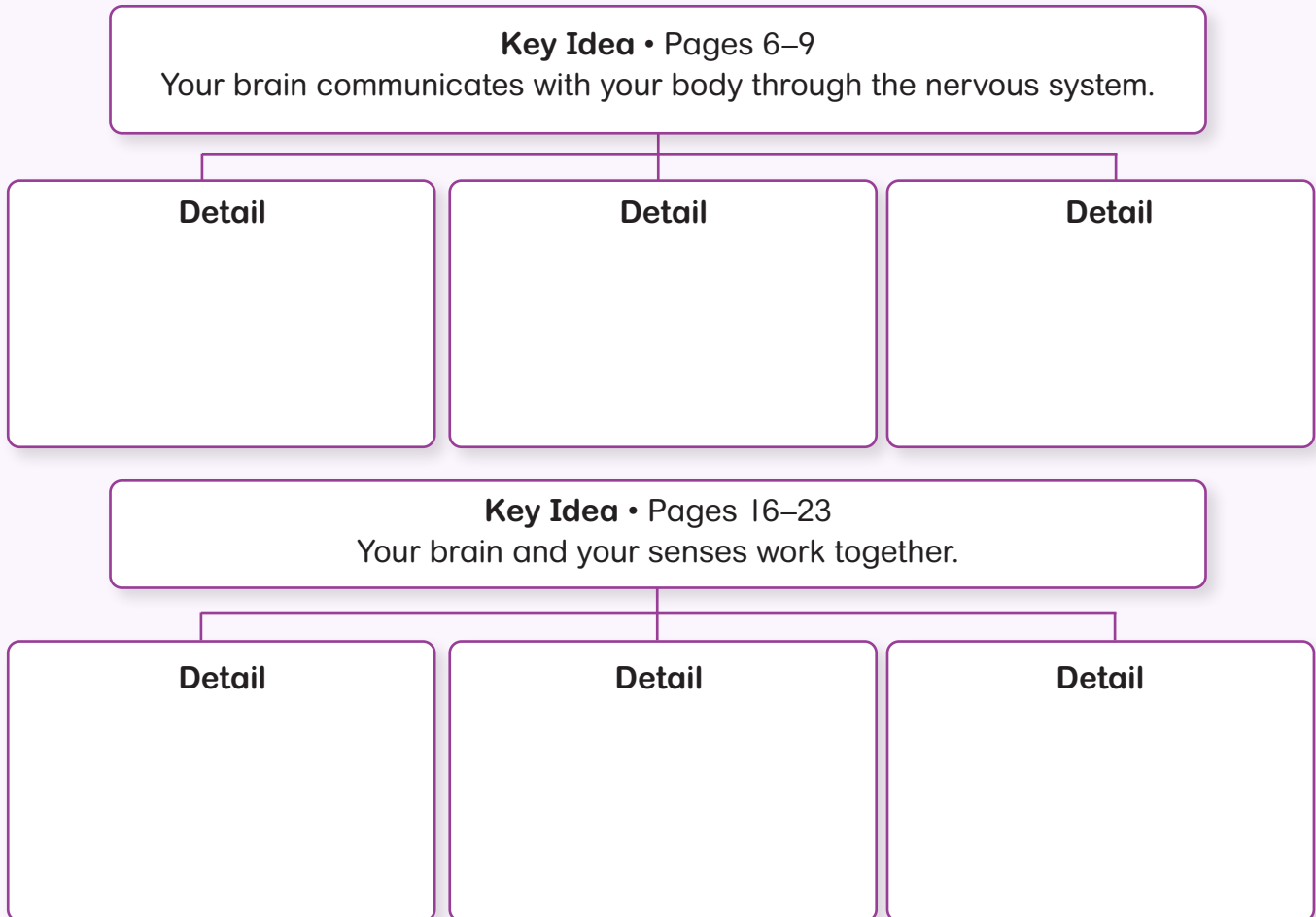
Place a *T* on the line if you think a statement is TRUE. Place an *F* on the line if you think a statement is FALSE.

- _____ 1. The brain tells your heart to pump blood.
- _____ 2. Your brain communicates with your body through your nervous system.
- _____ 3. Your brain stops working when you sleep.
- _____ 4. Your brain uses all of your senses EXCEPT smell.
- _____ 5. Your eyes send images to your brain upside-down and backward.

Test Yourself Answers: 1. T, 2. T, 3. F, 4. F, 5. T

Brainwork

Read the key ideas for the sections listed below. Complete the chart.
Write three important details for each key idea.



✓ Check one: I did this work on my own. _____ I worked with a partner. _____ I worked with a group. _____