

Instructions for the Brain and Nerves

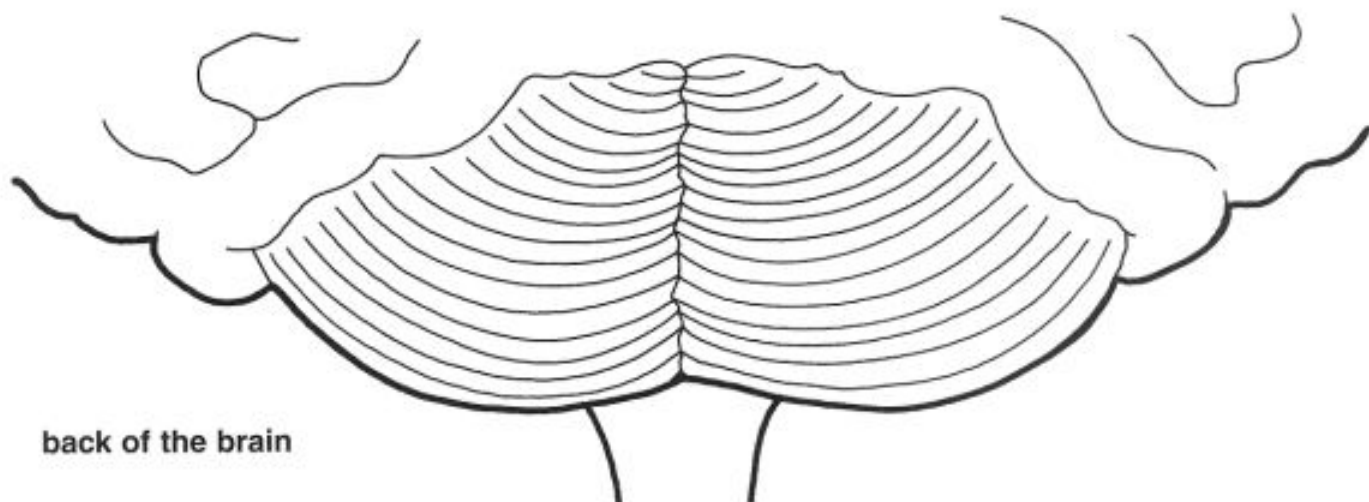
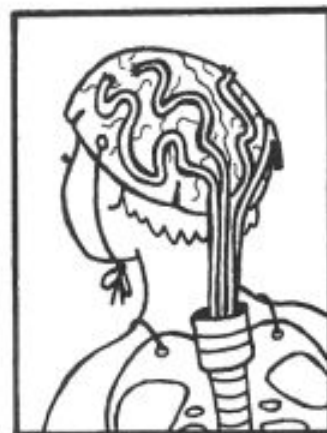
Brain cap:

1. Reproduce and cut out the brain cap (page 42) and the brain stem (this page) from grey construction paper. Cut along the broken lines on the brain cap.
2. On the brain cap, slightly overlap the cut edges and tape them down, causing the cap to become more rounded. Punch a hole in each 0. Tape the brain stem to the back of the brain.
3. Cut two pieces of yarn about 12 inches long. Tie one end of each piece through the hole on either side of the brain. Tie the yarn under the child's chin so it holds the brain cap in place.

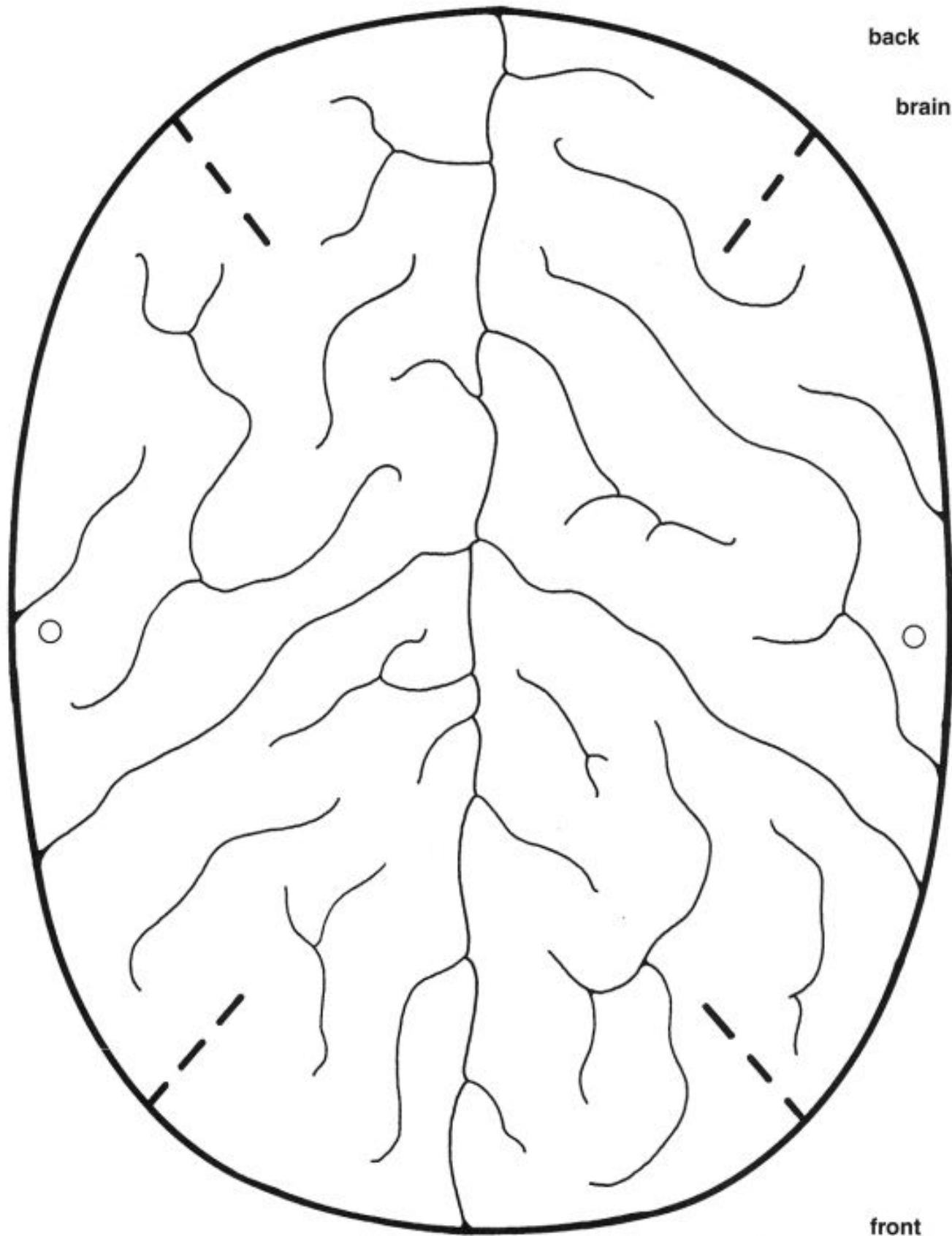
Option: yarn strands can be glued to the brain cap and pulled together at the brain stem to show how the nerves connect to the muscles.

Brain and nervous system facts:

1. The brain is connected to the rest of the body by the millions of nerve cells in the body. The nerves relay messages to the brain by passing the messages to one another through an electrical-chemical connection.
2. The message goes from a muscle or organ to the brain. The brain determines what action should be taken and sends the message back. All this happens in a matter of seconds. The nerve cells are the body's communication system; the brain is the "driver".
3. Most of the nervous system in the trunk, arms and legs of the body is connected to the spinal cord which speeds the messages to the brain. For some parts, like eyes and ears, the nerve cells go directly to the brain.
4. The brain has many different functions. It is the learning center; it remembers and it thinks. It reminds the lungs to breathe and the heart to pump. It's messages help us run, jump and play. It takes in information from our five senses and tells us when we are in danger and what to do about it.



back of the brain



back

brain top

front