



## Activity 7

## Observe Like a Scientist

## How the Nervous System Works

You have just completed an investigation into your own visual and auditory senses. Now it is time to discover how our nervous system works. **Read** the passage that follows to learn how this system works. Then, **talk** together about how the parts of the nervous system are connected. Be ready to **share** your ideas.

Your nervous system is very busy. It has three jobs: gather information, make sense of it, and tell the body what to do based on that information. The nervous system gathers information about what is going on inside and outside your body and sends this information to the brain.



The process begins with your senses. Sensory organs, like your eyes, ears, and even skin, gather information. For example, your ears may pick up sound waves coming from a chirping bird. The nerves in your ears send a message to the brain. You do not actually hear the chirps until your brain makes sense of the sound waves. Next, the brain sends a message to the body about what to do, such as turn to look for the bird in a tree.

When the brain receives a message, it then sends a message telling the body how to react. Some messages, called **reflexes**, are so fast you are barely aware of them. Other messages are relayed to and from the brain automatically, like the signal to breathe.



**Talk Together** What role do you think reflexes played in the investigation?



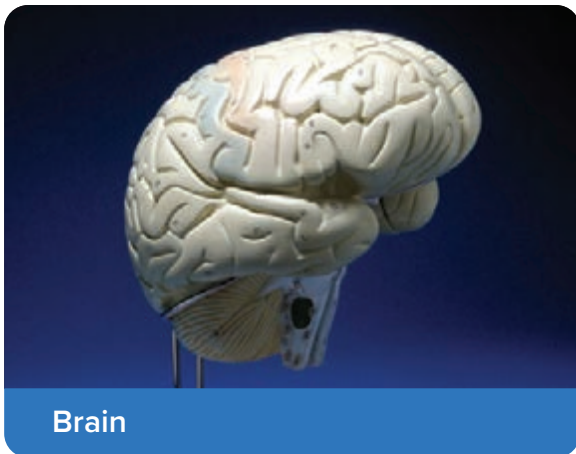
## Activity 8

## Evaluate Like a Scientist

## Describing the Nervous System

## The Nervous System

**Look** at the following images. Which of these are part of the nervous system? **Circle** all that apply.



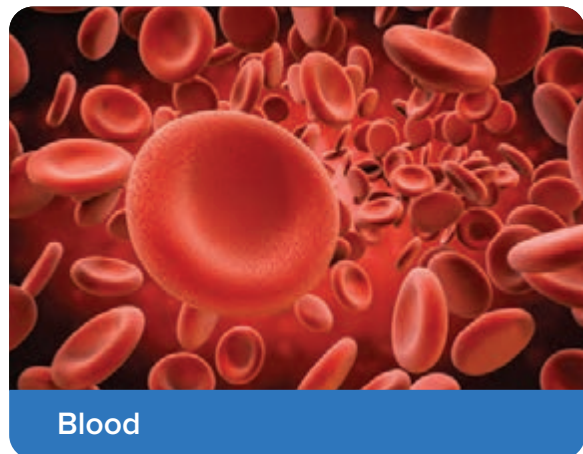
Brain



Spinal Cord



Nerves



Blood

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**Life Skills** I can use information to solve a problem.

## function of the Nervous System

**Think** about what you have learned about the nervous system and **explain** what the parts of the nervous system can do together that the individual parts cannot do alone.

**Share** your answer with a partner.

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## Describe the Nervous System

**Read** the sentences that describe the nervous system. **Write** the correct term from the word bank in each blank. You will not use all the terms.

heart

brain

nerves

blood

nervous system

reaction time

reflexes

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ is like the command center for your body.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ send(s) messages to the brain.
3. The brain is part of the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ are messages sent by the nervous system that are often so fast you do not think about them.