

The **hippocampus** is a major component of the **brain** of **humans** and many other **vertebrates**. It plays important roles in the **consolidation** of information from **short-term memory** to **long-term memory**, and in **spatial memory** that enables **navigation**. In humans and other primates, the hippocampus is located in the **archicortex**, one of the three regions of **allocortex**, in each **hemisphere**. The hippocampus is a structure found in all vertebrates. In **Alzheimer's disease** (and other forms of **dementia**), the hippocampus is one of the first regions of the brain to suffer damage; **short-term memory loss** and **disorientation** are included among the early symptoms. Damage to the hippocampus can also result from oxygen starvation, **encephalitis** or **medial temporal lobe epilepsy**. Since different **neuronal cell types** are neatly organized into layers in the hippocampus, it has frequently been used as a **model system** for studying **neurophysiology**.