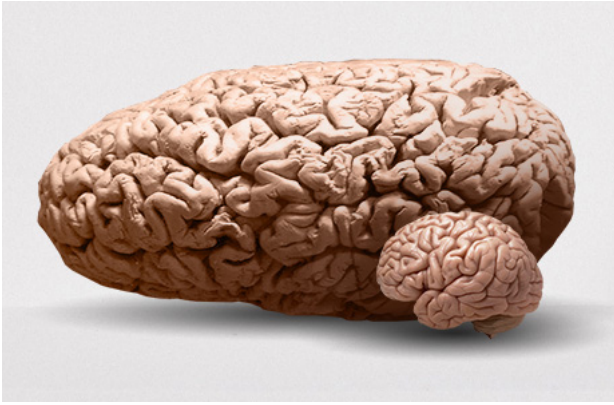


Mersey Region
Epilepsy Association

Brain Boxes — Fascinating Facts





Brain Fact 1

The Sperm Whale has the heaviest brain of any living animal. The heaviest ever weighed in at 9.2kg (20.2lb). This is heavier than 4 bags of potatoes!

The heaviest elephant brain ever weighed 7.5kg (16.5lb).

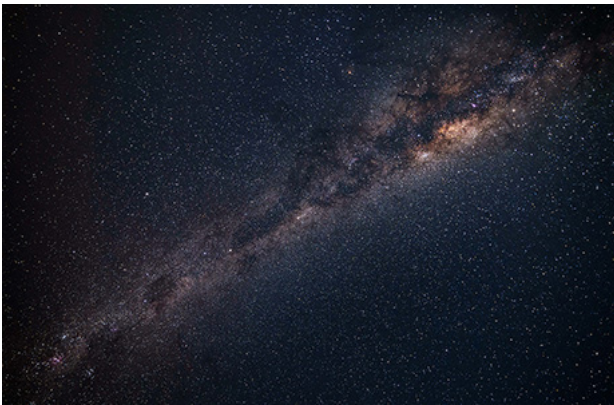
This is over 5 times heavier than the brain of an adult human.



Brain Fact 2

A new born baby has more brain cells than a university professor. The reason why an adult's brain is bigger than a child's brain is because it fills up with other types of supporting cells - not brain cells.

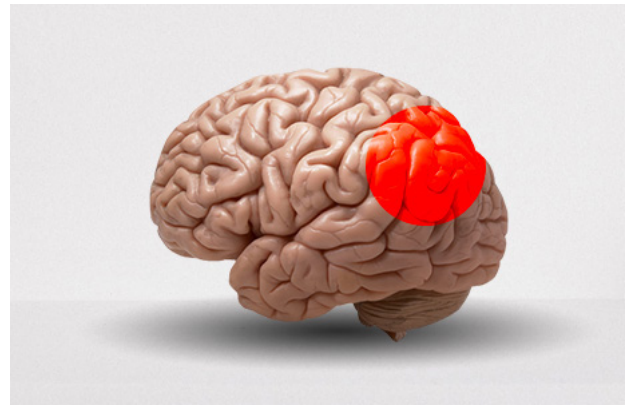
Throughout our lives we lose our brain cells - and unlike cells in other parts of our bodies they are never replaced. Adults lose thousands of brain cells every day - luckily humans have that many to start with that it has no effect on us.



Brain Fact 3

There are 100 billion (100,000,000,000) nerve cells in a human brain. This is about the same as the number of stars in the Milky Way galaxy.

If you counted them at the rate of one every second it would take 3000 years!



Brain Fact 4

When somebody is having a seizure the part of the brain affected goes red.

Doctors have seen this happen when people who are having brain surgery happen to have a seizure.

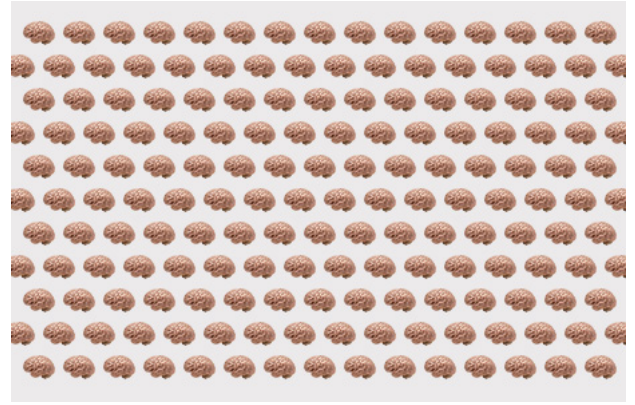
The redness is caused by an increase in the blood flow to that region or part of the brain.



Brain Fact 5

The brain makes up only one fiftieth ($1/50$) of our body weight but it uses up a quarter of all the oxygen that the body needs.

It is no surprise, that since our brains rely on so much oxygen, too little or too much oxygen can have very unpleasant effects on our consciousness.



Brain Fact 6

Every nerve cell in your brain is linked up with many others.

There are so many connections between all the cells in your brain that if you started counting them now, one every second, you would finish in 32 million years time.



Brain Fact 7

Throughout the world there are about 50 million (50,000,000) people who have Epilepsy.

Compare this with the population of the United Kingdom which is 57 million (57,000,000).

Epilepsy is very common indeed.



Brain Fact 8

The left hemisphere (side) of your brain controls the right side of your body, and the right hemisphere controls the left hand side.

In most people, messages from the left hemisphere override messages from the right, so most people (about 9 out of 10) are right handed. Nobody is really sure why this is.

