

Animal Brain: Fun Fact Frenzy

Task Overview

In this activity, you will become a **brain researcher** and explore the brain and nervous system of your favourite animal.

Step 1: Choose Your Animal

Write the name of your animal:

My animal is: _____

Why did you choose this animal?

Step 2: Basic Brain Facts

Use books or safe, teacher-approved websites to find out:

1. Brain size

- About how big is this animal's brain? (e.g., very small, about the size of a pea, golf ball, orange, etc.)
- **Write** and **draw** your answer.

Brain size: _____



2. Brain shape

- Describe your animal's brain. What does the brain look like? (long and thin, round, flat, etc.)

3. Folds/wrinkles

- Does your animal's brain look smooth or wrinkly (folded)?
- How does it compare to a human brain's folds?

4. Intelligence and behaviour

- What are some things this animal can do that show it is smart?
(e.g., uses tools, remembers places, can learn tricks, works in a group, etc.)

What my animal's brain helps it do:

Step 3: Fun Facts!

Find **3 unique fun facts** about your animal's **brain or nervous system** (how it senses the world, moves, or communicates).

Examples of what to look for:

- Special senses (great hearing, night vision, strong smell).
- Special body parts linked to the nervous system (whiskers, antennae, electric organs).
- Amazing abilities (migration, echolocation, super fast reactions).

Write your facts in full sentences.

Fun Fact #1:

Fun Fact #2:

Fun Fact #3:

Step 4: Draw Your Animal & It's Brain

On the next page (In the **Drawing Box** provided):

1. Draw your animal.
2. Next to it, draw what you think its **brain** looks like (size, shape, folds).
3. Label at least two things, for example:
 - "Big brain for body size"
 - "Lots of folds" or "Mostly smooth"
 - "Great hearing" or "Fast reflexes"

Step 5: Share With the Class

Be ready to share:

- Your animal's name.
- **One** thing about its brain (size, shape, or folds).
- **One** favourite fun fact about its brain or nervous system.

Your class can then compare **similarities and differences** between human and animal brains, and see how brain structure links to behaviour and abilities.



Drawing Box

Curriculum Connections

Strand 3.2: Describe the basic structure and function of major organs in the respiratory, circulatory, and digestive systems (e.g., we have two lungs; each one is about 25–30 cm long and cone-shaped; the right lung is slightly bigger because it has three lobes and the left lung has only two; our lungs are responsible for gas exchanges)

Strand 3.3: Identify interrelationships between body systems (e.g., the respiratory system provides oxygen and removes carbon dioxide for the circulatory system)

- Although the curriculum focuses on human organ systems, this is a fun way to get students thinking about how human organ systems interact with each other using their favourite animals.