



INSTRUCTIONS

- 1) **Have students fill out the Know, Want to Know, Learned page.** Encourage them to write down what they know about the brain followed by what they want to know about it. They will fill out the “Learned” section once the unit is completed.
- 2) **Hand out a manila folder to each student.** Also hand out brain case file stickers to label the file. Have students affix stickers to the file tab and write their names in a corner on the front of the folder. Tell students that they are going to be Human Body Detectives like Merrin and Pearl and that they will fill their files with important information during their investigation of the brain.
- 3) **Announce that you will read HBD: *Brainiacs*.** Two girls, Merrin and Pearl, enter someone’s brain. “Let’s find out whose it is and what happens!” Read HBD: *Brainiacs* aloud. When finished, briefly discuss the story. “What was the most exciting part for you?”
- 4) **Understanding the Brain**


 **Ask the students:** Is the brain just a container for thinking and/or storing facts and memories? Or does the brain have other purposes?

What is the brain? What does it do?

- It is an organ
- Living computer: lets you think and dream
- Master communicator: it accepts messages from your eyes, ears, taste buds, and skin
- Gateway between the body and the mind
- Controls body temperature, blood pressure and breathing
- It allows you to walk, talk, stand or sit; basically controls everything we do (the boss)

The brain is a small organ approximately the size of a grapefruit, a small head of cauliflower, or a softball, and it weighs about 3 pounds. It has the consistency of Jell-O, therefore, sticking your fingers through it, is possible (a good reason why we have our hard skulls).

5) Brain Main Parts

 **Teacher’s note:** The brain hat shows the exact location of all the parts listed.