

Name: _____

That Takes A Lot of Nerve!

Your body is made up of several amazing parts. One such part is a bundle of long, thin threads called nerves. You have nerves all over your body. Your nerves help all of the systems in your body communicate with each other. Some nerves are called motor nerves. They help your body and muscles move. Others are called sensory nerves. They help you feel things. They also help your body respond to all that it feels. Imagine that one night at dinner, you reached up and grabbed a bowl of really hot soup. Once your fingers touched the scalding broth, you immediately pulled your hands away from the bowl. Your nerves helped you do this. The nerves in your skin sensed the heat from the bowl. These nerves then sent a message through your spinal cord to your brain. Your brain then sent a return message to your hand. This message told your muscles to jerk back because your nerves were sensing something painful. All of this communication happened faster than you could say "ouch!" Nerves are complex and coordinated communicators. They are also really cool (or hot, depending on what they sense)!



Nervous System

That Takes A Lot of Nerve!

Questions

1. What are nerves?

_____ 2. In this passage the word jerk means:

- A. a quick, sudden movement
- B. to pull someone
- C. a person who is not very nice
- D. a fun dance from the 1960s

_____ 3. Which of the following statements about nerves are true?

- A. Nerves help all of the body systems communicate with one another.
- B. There are sensory and motor nerves.
- C. Nerves are long, thin threads.
- D. All of the above

_____ 4. How is this passage organized?

- A. It gives a series of steps in a process.
- B. It tells how things are alike and different.
- C. It states a cause and then gives effects.
- D. It makes a statement and then gives reasons that it is true.

