35 - The Senses

Learning objectives

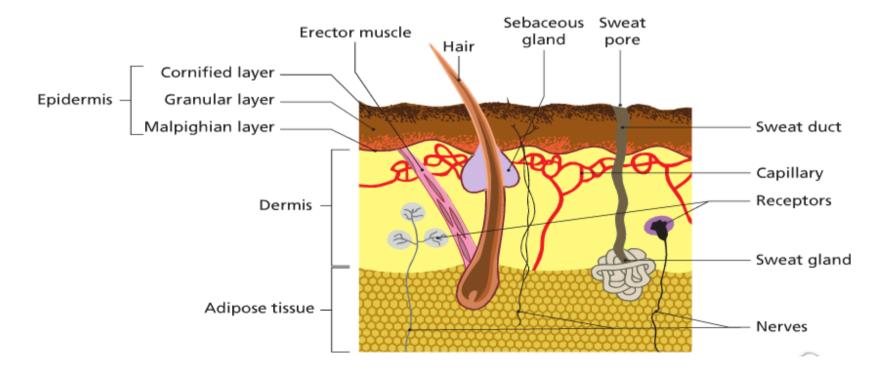
- To describe the senses in relation to the brain
- To describe the structure and function of the eye and the ear
- To describe corrective measures for long and short sight or for a hearing defect.
 - 1. Touch
 - 2. Taste
 - 3. Smell
 - 4. Sight
 - 5. Hearing



Touch

The skin is the organ of touch and temperature. It has receptors that do the sensing.

These are found at different concentrations in various locations around the body.



Taste

The tongue is the organ of taste.

Taste buds in the tongue can detect tastes in different parts.



Smell

The nose is the organ of smell.

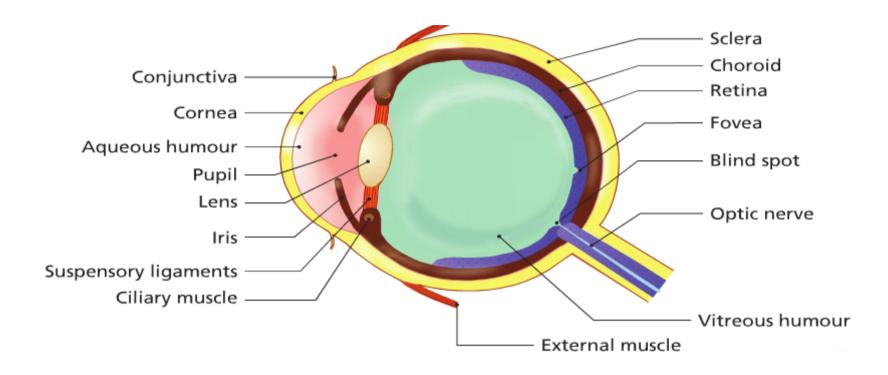
Olfactory neurons in the nose detect many different smells.



A dogs sense of smell is 10,000 times better than ours.



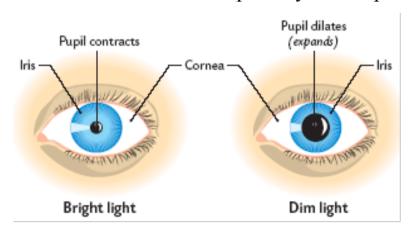
Parts of the Eye



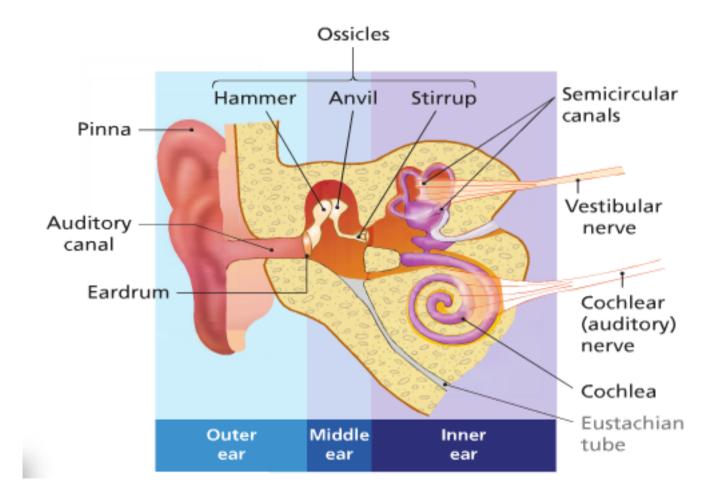
Cones - cells in the retina that see in colour Rods - cells in the retina that see in black and white

Sight

- The conjunctiva membrane around the eye, for protection
- The sclera tough, white coat that holds the eye in shape
- The cornea front part of the sclera. Lets light in and bends and focuses it onto
- The retina which is light sensitive.
- The fovea the part of the retina where most of the images are focused
- The blind spot where the optic nerve leaves the retina, has no rods or cones
- The optic nerve carries impulses to the brain
- The lens focuses light onto the retina
- The iris coloured part of the eye which controls the amount of light let in
- The pupil is the black circle at the front of the eye, lets light into the eye
- The ciliary muscles change the shape of the lens (accommodation) to focus
- The aqueous and vitreous humours keep the eye in shape



Parts of the Ear



Hearing

- The pinna collects vibrations
- The auditory canal carries vibrations to the eardrum
- The eardrum carries vibrations to the middle ear
- The 3 small bones or ossicles (called the hammer, anvil and stirrup) amplify (increase) the vibrations and pass them onto the oval window.
- The cochlea coverts the vibrations into electrical impulses that are sent to the brain along the auditory nerve.
- The Eustachian tube (is not really part of the ear but connects the middle ear with the pharynx and equalises pressure between the middle and outer ear.

Hearing Disorder

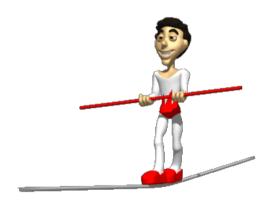
Glue ear is a common disorder in young children. A sticky substance builds up in the inner ear causing some deafness.



Correction - this is done by giving decongestants or by a small operation to place tubes (grommets) into the ears to keep the ears open.

The Ear and Balance

The vestubilar apparatus controls your balance. There are 3 semi-circular canals that have fluid in them. The fluid moves as we move and tells us where are balance is. If the tubes are blocked by infection then the fluid can't move and we lose our balance.



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