

Ancient beliefs What is the brain?



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5000 B.C.
Early evidence of trephination, a primitive brain surgery in which a hole is cut through the skull. The practice, which persisted through the Middle Ages, was sometimes used to treat seizures or headaches

4000 B.C.
The first known writing about the brain describes the mind-altering sensations that result from eating poppies



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2500 B.C.
Ancient Egyptians believe the heart is the source of good and evil. They consider the brain an unimportant organ and discard it when mummifying corpses

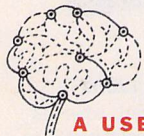


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460-370 B.C.
Hippocrates describes epilepsy as a disorder of the brain, not a curse from the gods. He also believes the brain is the seat of intelligence and emotion



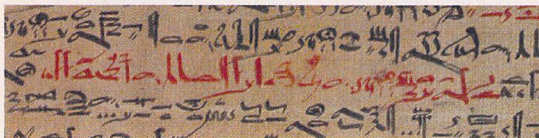
387-335 B.C.
Plato believes the brain controls intelligence and is "the divinest part of us." Aristotle, his student, believes the brain merely cools hot blood from the heart



**A USER'S
GUIDE
TO THE
BRAIN**

Five paths to UNDERSTANDING

From gruesome ancient rituals to modern pharmacology, mankind has been trying to discover what's really going on inside our heads. A short history



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1700 B.C.
The 15-ft.-long Edwin Smith Surgical Papyrus, a copy of Egyptian records from 3000 B.C., includes the earliest account of the anatomy of the brain and describes 27 cases of brain injury

300 B.C.
Alexandrian biologists Herophilus, the "father of anatomy," and Erasistratus, his student, are the first to rely on dissection of the human body to study the brain and describe the nervous system

1100-1500
Quacks practiced in sleight of hand go across Europe, claiming they can cure mental illnesses by removing "stones of madness" from the brain

1664
Thomas Willis, an Oxford professor, writes *Cerebri Anatome*, the most detailed description yet of the nervous system. Willis believes separate parts of the brain are responsible for thought and movement

1808
Franz Joseph Gall, a German anatomist, creates phrenology, a pseudoscience based on the idea that a person's personality is revealed by the contours of the head



Anatomy How is the brain built?



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