



MIND LIBS

OBJECTIVE: To have kids reflect on their brains, interests, and strengths in a lighthearted, fun way.

MATERIALS: Mind Libs Reproducibles #1 (PDF) and #2 (PDF)

ACTIVITY LEAD-IN: Tell students they will be doing a fun activity similar to “Mad Libs”™ in which they will “fill in the blanks” to create funny stories.

PROCEDURE:

1. Print one copy of Mind Libs Reproducible #1 (PDF) for yourself. Ask the class for the following word suggestions in the order below. Write their choices on the blackboard.

1. Adjective
2. Plural noun
3. Present tense verb
4. Present tense verb
5. Singular noun
6. Plural noun
7. Adjective
8. Adjective
9. Plural noun
10. Singular noun

If students are not familiar with certain parts of speech (singular noun, adjective, etc.), give examples of each.

2. When students have chosen all the words, read the “Brain Matters” section of the reproducible aloud. Then read the “Complete Story” on the second half of the reproducible, which contains factual information about the brain.
3. Pass out copies of Mind Libs Reproducible #2 (PDF) to each student. Have kids cover the lower half of their handouts with a piece of paper.
4. Have students choose words in the top half of the handout, and then write their choices in the story blanks below.
5. If appropriate, ask individual kids to read “My Mind” aloud to the class.

EXTENSION:

As homework, ask students to fill out “My Mind” using honest, thoughtful answers. Students can learn more about the brain by watching the **BrainPOP™** on **SparkTop®** movies on SparkTop.org!



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Reproducible #1

BRAIN MATTERS

The human brain is the most (1)_____ thing you own! It's made up of billions of (2)_____ that control everything in your body. Your brain is what lets you (3)_____ and (4)_____.

The brain is divided into 3 parts—the (5)_____, the cerebellum, and the brain stem. The cerebrum, the largest part of the forebrain, is where you think; it's divided into 2 halves called (6)_____. Some psychologists believe that in most people, one hemisphere is dominant. To say that someone is (7)_____ might mean that he or she excels at math and science. And (8)_____ people are supposedly better at creative activities like art and music.

The cerebellum coordinates your body's (9)_____. The brain stem monitors and controls all the functions that keep you alive, like your (10)_____, blood pressure, breathing and more.

The brain definitely does a lot of work!

COMPLETE STORY

The human brain is the most complex thing you own! It's made up of billions of nerve cells that control everything in your body. Your brain is what lets you think and remember.

The brain is divided into 3 parts—the forebrain, the cerebellum, and the brain stem. The cerebrum, the largest part of the forebrain, is where you think; it's divided into 2 halves called hemispheres. Some psychologists believe that in most people, one hemisphere is dominant. To say that someone is left-brained might mean that he or she excels at math and science. And right-brained people are supposedly better at creative activities like art and music.

The cerebellum coordinates your body's movements. The brain stem monitors and controls all the functions that keep you alive, like your heartbeat, blood pressure, breathing and more.

The brain definitely does a lot of work!



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Reproducible #2

Choose the following words. Write them on the lines below:

1. Singular noun: _____
2. Adjective: _____
3. Adjective: _____
4. Verb ending in -ing: _____
5. Verb ending in -ing: _____
6. Plural noun: _____
7. Plural noun: _____
8. Profession: _____
9. Adjective: _____
10. Adjective: _____

Now, write your choices in each blank below. Make sure your numbered word choices match up with the numbered blanks below:

MY MIND

Everyone's mind is different. My mind is like a huge (1)_____. I would describe it as (2)_____ and (3)_____.

I love my mind because I'm very good at (4)_____ and (5)_____. Everyone has (6)_____ and (7)_____, but those are definitely my strengths.

There's a job for every kind of mind out there! When I get older, I would like to become a (8)_____. It's a career that would be (9)_____ and would use my strengths. I think I'd be (10)_____ at it!

You've got a funny mind!

If you thought about your mind seriously, how would you fill in the story blanks?



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