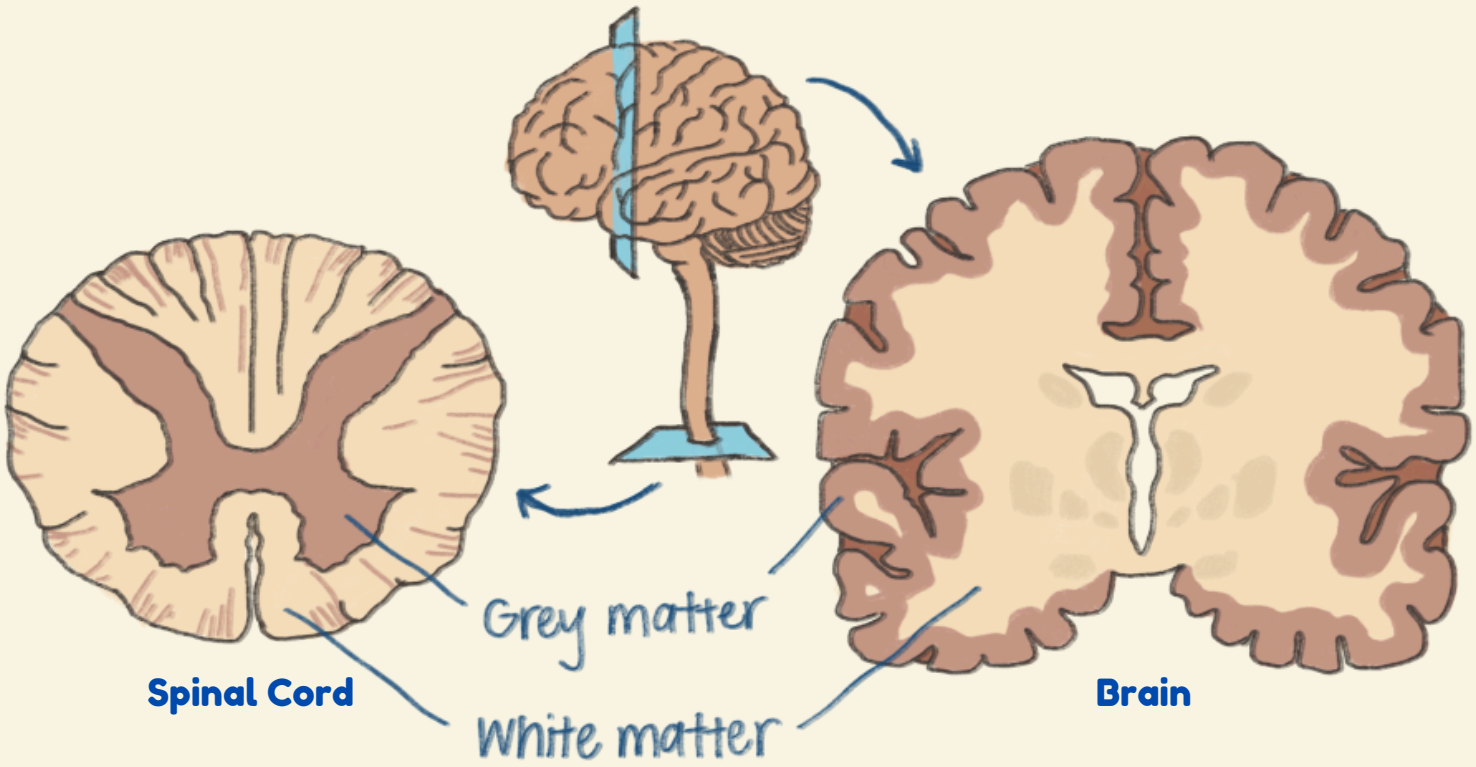
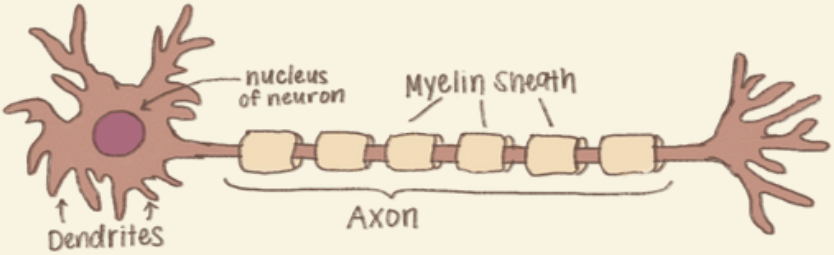
WHITE MATTER VS GREY MATTER

Our nervous system is made of special cells called neurons. Neurons form pathways and sections of the brain. We can look at brain tissue and spinal cord tissue and find **grey matter** and **white matter**.



Grey matter is made of the neuronal cell bodies (which contain the nucleus of the cell) and their dendrites. It gets its color from a high concentration of cell bodies of neurons. This is where the information processing happens for sensation, voluntary movement, learning, speech, and cognition.

White matter is made of the long axons of neurons that transmit impulses to distant regions of your brain and spinal cord. It gets its color from myelin sheath, which is a fatty protective layer that wraps around the axon. White matter provides connections between grey matter and the rest of your body.



References:
Purves, D. (2018). Neuroscience (6th ed.). Oxford University Press.

Infographic by Hannah Pon