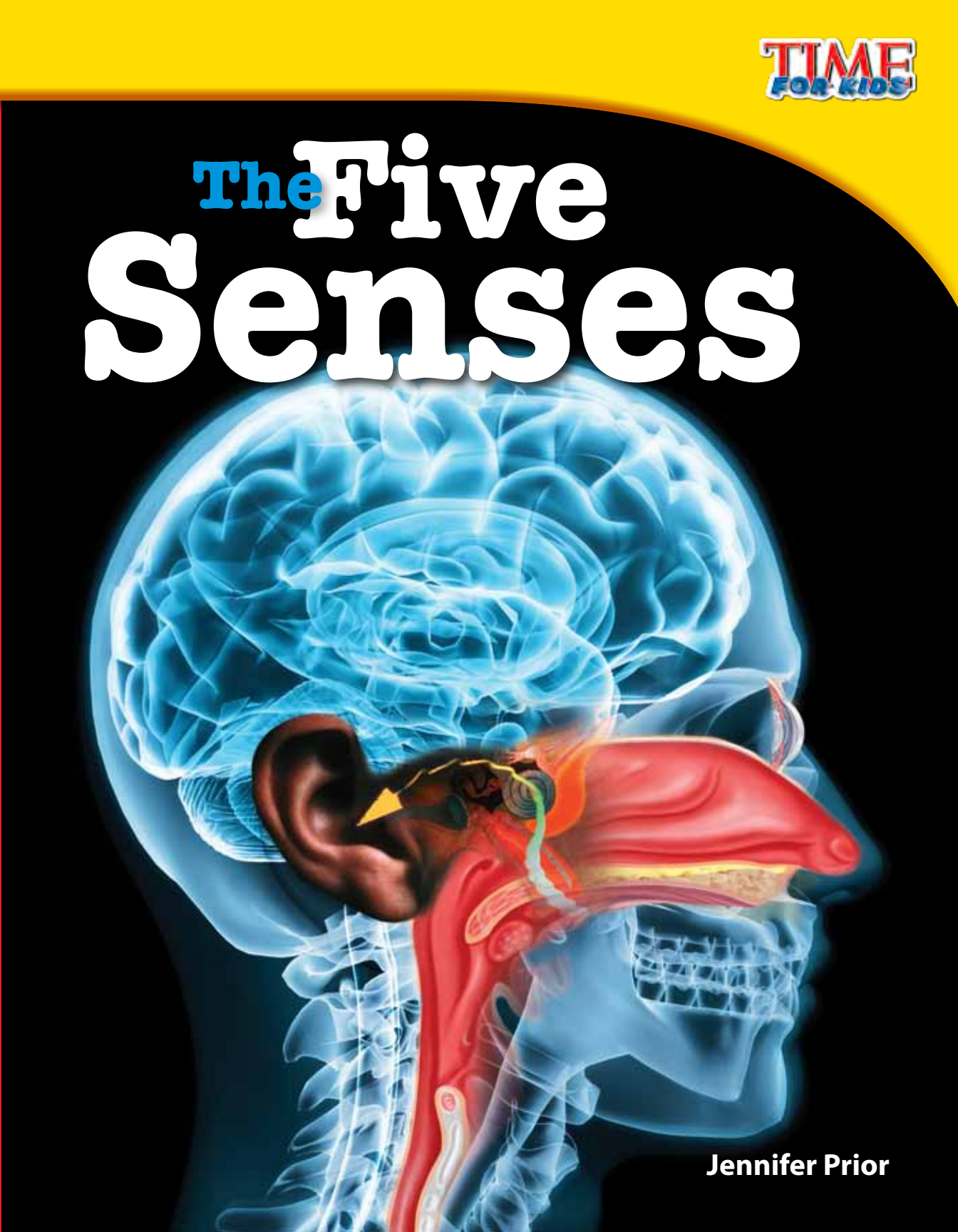
TIME FOR KIDS

The Five Senses



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Your Wonderful Senses

It's a summer day, and you're reading outside drinking lemonade. You taste the sweet juice on your tongue. You see the blue sky. You hear a bird chirping. The smell of fresh grass is in the air. You feel the warmth of the sun on your skin.

Thanks to your senses, you are able to experience this beautiful day. Your senses are responsible for all the sights, sounds, and smells you experience. All the things you feel and taste are yours to enjoy because of your wonderful senses.

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It Begins in the Brain

Your brain helps you make sense of the world. This happens through the senses: sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch.

Your senses help you understand the changes around you. When a traffic signal changes to red, you see it and stop. When the weather turns chilly, you feel it and put on a jacket. You hear noises that tell you someone is coming. You smell smoke, and you know a fire is nearby. You taste something delicious, and you want more.





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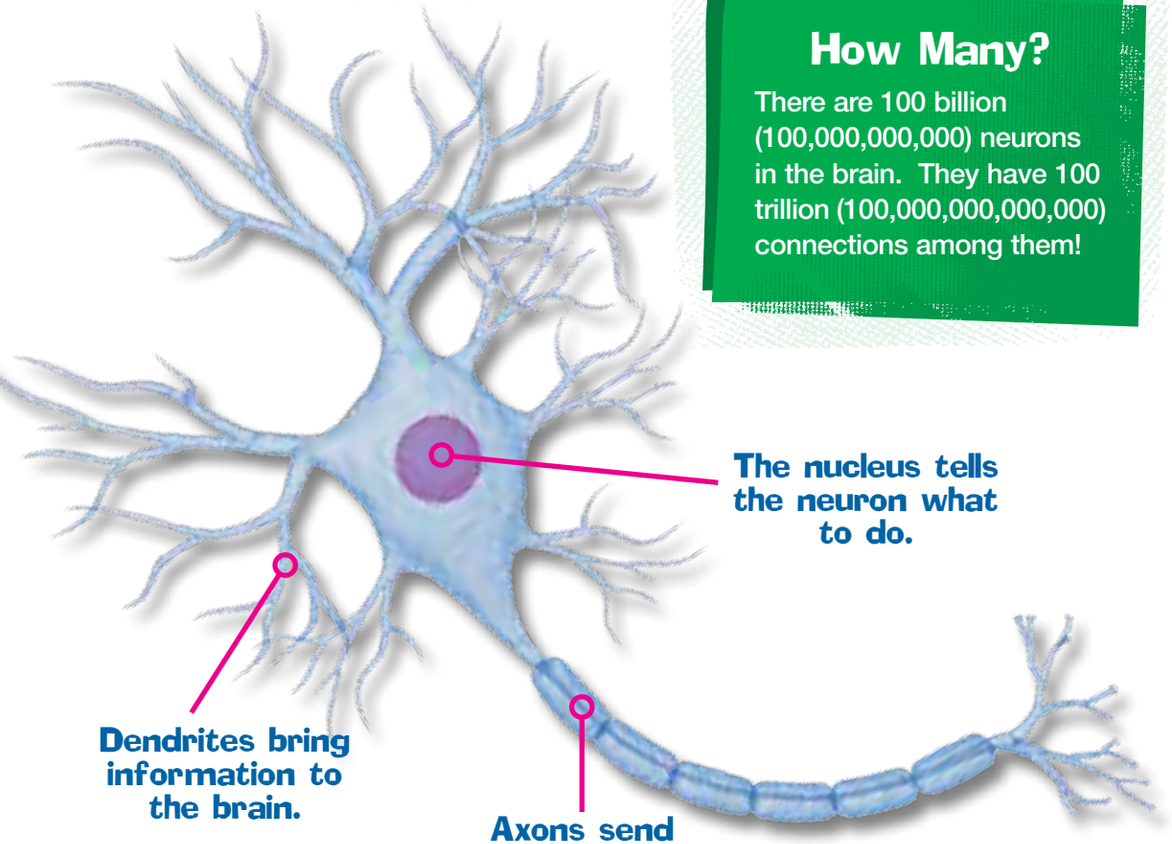
Whatever you do, all of your senses are at work. What are you seeing, hearing, smelling, touching, and tasting right now?



Your brain takes in information from outside your body. Then it sends messages throughout your body. It can do this because of the nerve cells, called **neurons** (NOOR-ons), in your brain and body.

Neurons carry the information gathered by the senses to the brain. Then the brain interprets this information. Finally, the brain tells the neurons to send messages to the parts of the body that need to respond. This happens instantly. You don't even know it's happening. You are just aware of the results, and your body is moving.

Neuron



How Many?

There are 100 billion (100,000,000,000) neurons in the brain. They have 100 trillion (100,000,000,000,000) connections among them!

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The Control Center

Your brain is the control center of the body. It sends messages through the nerves to different parts of the body. Each nerve passes the message to the next nerve until it reaches the right place. Have you ever seen a row of dominoes fall one after the other? The brain's messages travel through nerves in much the same way.