

Visiting The Hippocampus

By Thaddeus Daniels

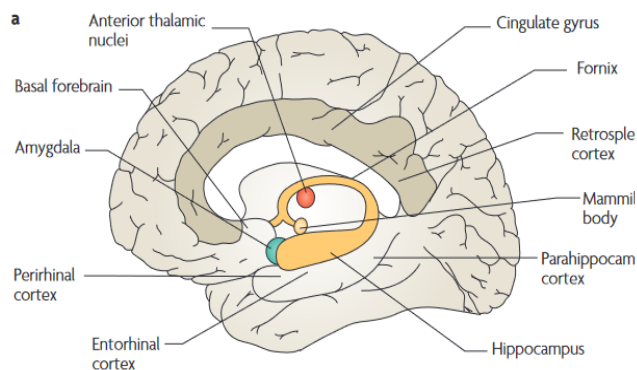
Introduction

In the article, “The hippocampus and memory: insights from spatial processing,” Chris M. Bird and Neil Burgess have many theories on how the hippocampus, is our source of new memories, and how works. Bird and Burgess describe the connections between the hippocampus and the other parts of the brain with the use of a diagram. The authors also explain a multitude of things like what episodic and semantic memory are.

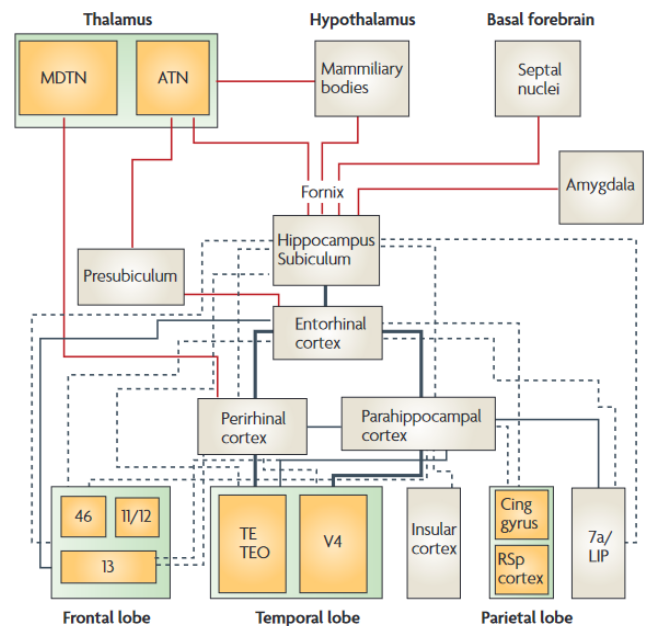
What is the hippocampus and what does it do?

The hippocampus is one of three parts of the limbic system. The limbic system is where information in the brain is processed. The hippocampus is an important part for learning and memory. Without the hippocampus, new memories could not be made. The hippocampus also takes part in recalling information and tasks that require the need for detailed mental imagery, such as planning a route.

Where is the hippocampus located and what does it interact with?



The limbic system is located in the forebrain. Also located in the forebrain close by is the thalamus, which is the sensory relay, and the amygdala, which gives emotional meaning to our memories. The hippocampus and the amygdala work in tandem to give us the perception of memory and remembering past events and information. The diagrams from the article represent how interrelated every part of the brain is and where each part is located.



Something Interesting

Something interesting I learned about is episodic and semantic memory. Episodic memory is based on personal experience, like learning to ride a bike and remembering who taught you. While semantic memory is based on knowing information without the memory of how it was learned. Semantic memory is more like the information in an encyclopedia.

References

Bird, C. & Burgess, N. (2008). The hippocampus and memory: Insights from spatial processing. *Nature Reviews Neuroscience*, 9(3), 182-94