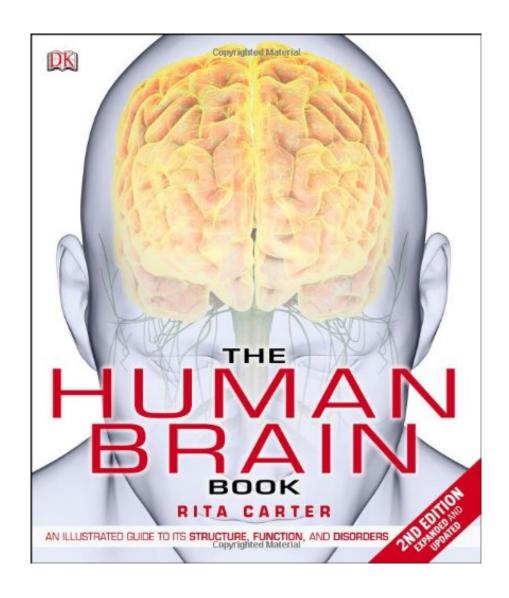


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From Booklist

Using computer-generated three-dimensional images, graphics, and clear explanatory text presented in brief sections, the follow-up to The Human Body Book (2007) examines each aspect of the brain's structure and functions. Carter covers both the physiological and psychological aspects of the brain and more than 50 brain-related disorders as well as providing a comprehensive, layered brain atlas. Sections on brain function treat topics such as "Movement and Control," "The Social Brain," and "Memory." A glossary provides definitions of medical and other terms, and an index aids navigation for readers looking for specific topics. A time line of investigation into the brain and a two-page spread on "Landmarks in Neuroscience" help readers put their newly gained knowledge into context. The highlight of the volume is the illustrations. Pages are full of color photographs, charts, diagrams, and other graphics, including specially commissioned brain scans. This is a valuable resource for any high-school, college, and public library collection. Libraries should be aware that it comes with a DVD. --Sara Marcus

About the Author

Rita Carter is a science and medical writer, and contributes to the Independent, New Scientist, the Daily Mail, and the Telegraph. She has twice been awarded the Medical Journalists' Association prize for outstanding contribution to medical journalism. She has written several books, including Mapping the Mind, Exploring Consciousness (both Weidenfeld and Nicolson), and Multiplicity: the New Science of Personality (Little, brown), which have sold internationally - including the US, Japan, Korea, Poland, Italy, Spain, and Brazil. Mapping the Mind was shortlisted for the Rhone-Poulenc Prize (now the Royal Society Prize for Science books). Rita also talks about the brain, consciousness, and behavior to a wide range of groups at seminars, conferences, and workshops around the world.

Review

"[O]ffers extensive, detailed information on the systems of the body and the workings of the human brain." – RaisingArizonaKids.com

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Combining the latest findings from neuroscience with new brain imaging techniques, as well as developments on infant brains, telepathy, and brain modification, this new edition of DK's The Human Brain Book covers brain anatomy, function, and disorders in unprecedented detail.

With its unique 22-page atlas, illustrated with MRI scans, and an interactive DVD, The Human Brain Book is a perfect resource for families, students, or anyone interested in human biology, anatomy, and neuroscience.

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Review

"[O]ffers extensive, detailed information on the systems of the body and the workings of the human brain." – RaisingArizonaKids.com

Most helpful customer reviews

288 of 294 people found the following review helpful.

very good, but loaded with errors

By Haseeb

I found too many errors in this book to give it five stars, but at the same time, it is put together so well and covers too much material to give it just three stars.

Here are the errors I was able to find:

*The diagram on page 58 mistakes an Internal globus pallidus for an External globus pallidus

*On page 60, it incorrectly states that the auditory cortex is represented by Brodmann areas 40 and 41 while it should be Brodmann areas 41 and 42.

*On page 115, the color coded projections of the cerebellar circuits to and from the pimary motor cortex are wrong.

*On page 116 it incorrectly stated that the red nucleus is in the superior colliculus. Furthermore, it incorrectly indicates that the pons is the inferior colliculus.

*On page 135, the superior temporal gyrus is called a superior temporal sulcus. The same error is made on page 142 as well.

These are very serious errors and no book on the brain should contain this many blatant errors. I know the book was not written by a neuroscientist, but whoever the neuroscientist was who reviewed her work did not do a very good job. The only other thing in this book is that I don't think the section on memory explains neuroplasticity very well. I've read quite a few other books written by neuroscientists such as Robert Sapolsky and Joseph LeDoux who do a much better job explaining this and use more concise diagrams.

The included DVD which shows brain scan images, the anatomy of the brain as well as the different Brodmann areas and a short video on how neurons fire is excellent.

110 of 113 people found the following review helpful.

A Very Pleasant Surprise

By An Appreciative Reader

Is it OK to get excited over a book about the brain?:)

When I ordered "The Human Brain Book" I assumed it was just an updated version of one of my favorite illustrated "brain books"---Rita Carter's expertly executed survey of the human brain titled "Mapping the Mind." I would have been happy with an updated version of "Mapping the Mind" that reflected recent brain research.

When it arrived I was pleasantly surprised to see that Ms. Carter had collaborated with DK, the creator of amazingly well photographed and illustrated educational books to produce one of the most visually informative books on the brain I have ever seen. The paragraph-sized entries and highly visual content of "The Human Brain Book" make it accessible to a wider age range than "Mapping the Mind"--which explores

select topics on the brain with fewer illustrations but article-length commentary and depth.

Brain regions are made memorable by explaining the region with engaging examples of the types of behaviors, senses, emotions, cognitive, or other functions associated with that the area of the brain.

The large format and variety of photograph and image sizes reminded me of the wonderful Time Life Science series books that were popular a few decades ago. But so much better.

"The Human Brain Book" is a delight to browse--it's the kind of book that you can open to any page and find something engaging to explore.

And then there is the pleasant surprise of the interactive DVD-ROM . . .

Rita Carter and DK can be proud of creating an exceptional book. At less than \$30, this is one the best values I have found on Amazon in a long time.

66 of 70 people found the following review helpful.

Just what it should be!

By S. L. Shea

I almost never pre-order a book, wanting to see the product before shelling out money, but in this case I bet on my enjoyment of Rita Carter's other books and I was NOT disappointed. Well-laid out with spectacular illustrations, Carter's new The Human Brain, is a wonderful addition to an extremely complicated and rapidly progressing field. While not detailed enough to use as an advanced textbook, I've already asked our library to order a few copies for the shelf and for the reserve desk so my students can benefit from an nicely integrated presentation of anatomy, physiology and other basic sciences with clinical disorders.

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