

# Nervous System Reading Guide

*Biology & Behavior*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Period \_\_\_\_\_

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Read pages 54-59 and answer the following questions about the **nervous system**.

1. What are the **two major divisions** of the nervous system?

## **Neurons**

2. What do **neurons** do? How many do we have?
3. Briefly describe the function of the following parts of the neuron:
  - cell body*
  - dendrites*
  - axon*
  - myelin*
  - axon terminals*
4. What is it that makes some neurons so **long**?
5. What is the **synapse** and what happens there?

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6. Using the following terms in your answer, describe how a message travels from one neuron to the next. Make sure to underline each term as you use it: *cell body*, *dendrites*, *axon*, *myelin*, *axon terminals*, *synapse*.

## **Neurotransmitters: Chemical Messengers**

7. What is a **neurotransmitter**?
8. Why are neurotransmitters called **chemical messengers**?
9. What can happen when a person has **too much or too little** of certain neurotransmitters?
10. If someone had problems controlling his or her **bodily movements**, which neurotransmitter might be involved?

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## DIVISIONS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

Use the diagram on page 58 to complete the diagram below.

In the boxes, **label the parts of the nervous system**, and briefly **describe their functions** using the information on pages 57-59.

