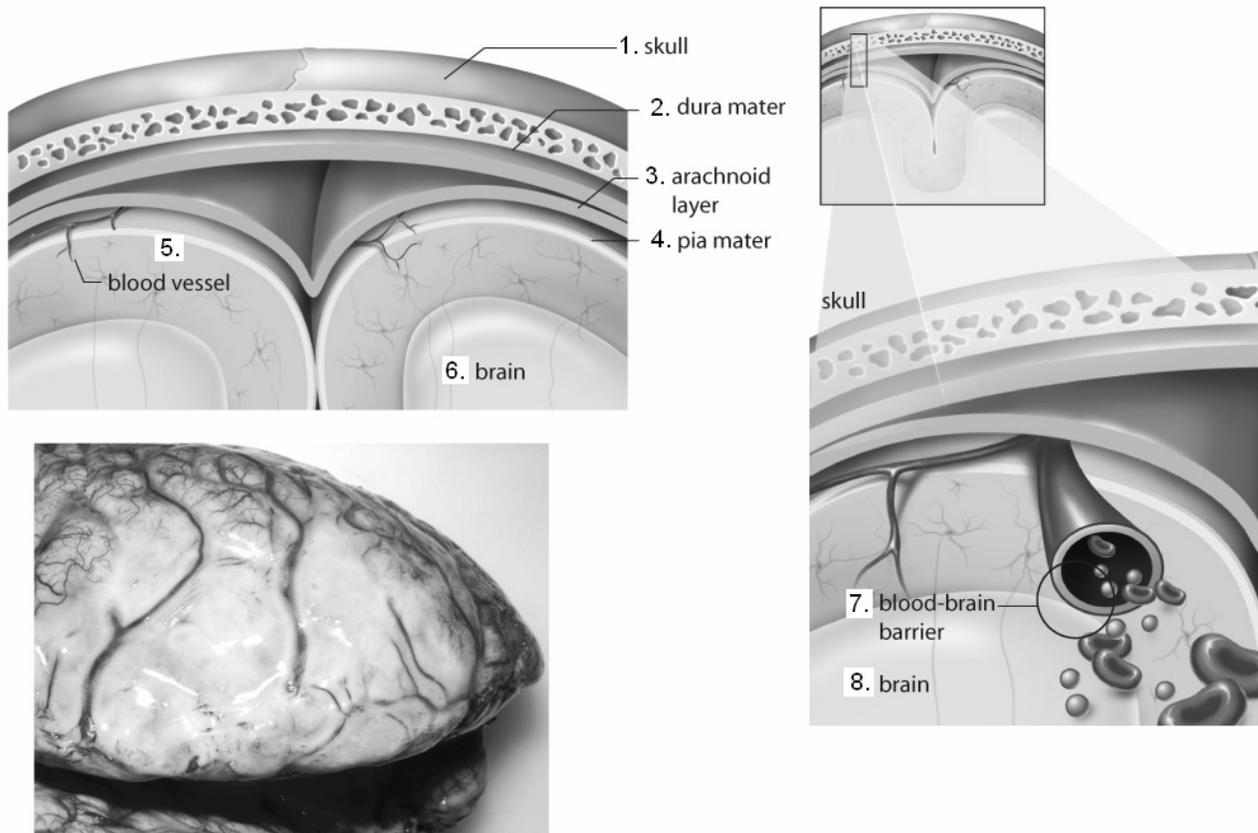


Protection for the Brain

Answer Key



Three layers of tissue, called the meninges, surround and protect the brain and spinal cord (top left). The dark brown-yellow patches on the meninges reveal a meningitis infection. Meningitis, or inflammation of the meninges, is caused by a bacterial or viral infection that can spread to underlying brain tissue. Meningitis can be life threatening and is diagnosed by examining a sample of the fluid surrounding the brain and spinal cord (bottom left). The blood-brain barrier (right). Only certain substances can pass through the tight seal formed by the blood-brain barrier.