DISSECTING A SHEEP'S BRAIN

Goal

Locate and observe structures of the brain.

Observation criteria

Cerebral hemisphere

Frontal lobe

Olfactory nerve

Temporal lobe

Optic nerve

Medulla oblongata

Bottom view of sheep's skull
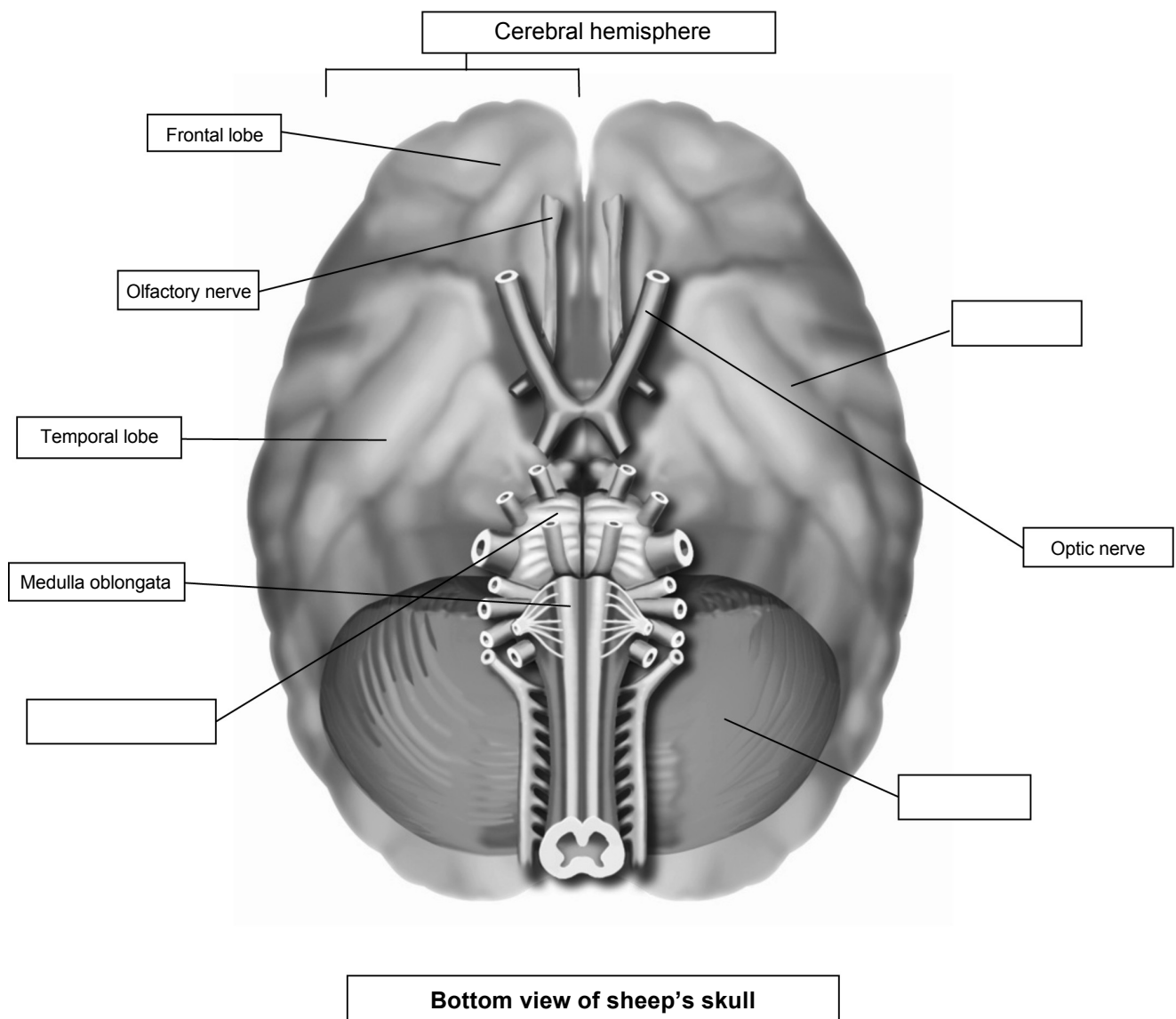
**1.** Identify the three main structures of the brain in the above illustration.

2. In the table below, record the characteristics that will help you to identify each of these structures when observed during this lab.

Structure	Characteristics

Materials

- gloves
- brain of a sheep
- scalpel *or* knife
- dissecting forceps
- dissecting scissors
- dissecting pan
- toothpicks
- adhesive paper

Procedure
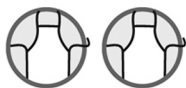
External examination

1. Observe the outer membrane of the brain. Note the colour and texture.

2. Locate each visible structure of the brain without cutting. Observe and describe the structure.

3. Spread the two hemispheres of the brain and separate them with the dissecting scissors.

4. With the scalpel, slice the cerebellum into two equal pieces. Note the colour and texture.

5. Complete the cut lengthwise above the centre of the medulla oblongata with the dissecting scissors. Note the colour and texture of the brainstem.

6. Observe the interior of the cerebrum. Note the colours and textures.

7. With toothpicks and adhesive paper, locate and identify each structure observed.

8. Dispose of the brain as directed by your lab instructor.

9. Clean up and put away materials.

Name: _____ Group: _____ Date: _____

Observations

Record your observations in the table below. Give the table a title.

Title:

Structure	Observations
External membrane	Colour: Texture:
Cerebrum	Description: Colour: Texture:
Cerebellum	Description: Colour: Texture:
Brainstem	Description: Colour: Texture:

Reflecting on your observations

1. Do your observations help you to better understand the structures of the brain?
Explain your answer.

_____

_____

2. Do you think the size of a human brain is the same as that of a sheep? Explain your answer.

_____

_____

_____

3. How could you improve the protocol for this lab?

_____

_____