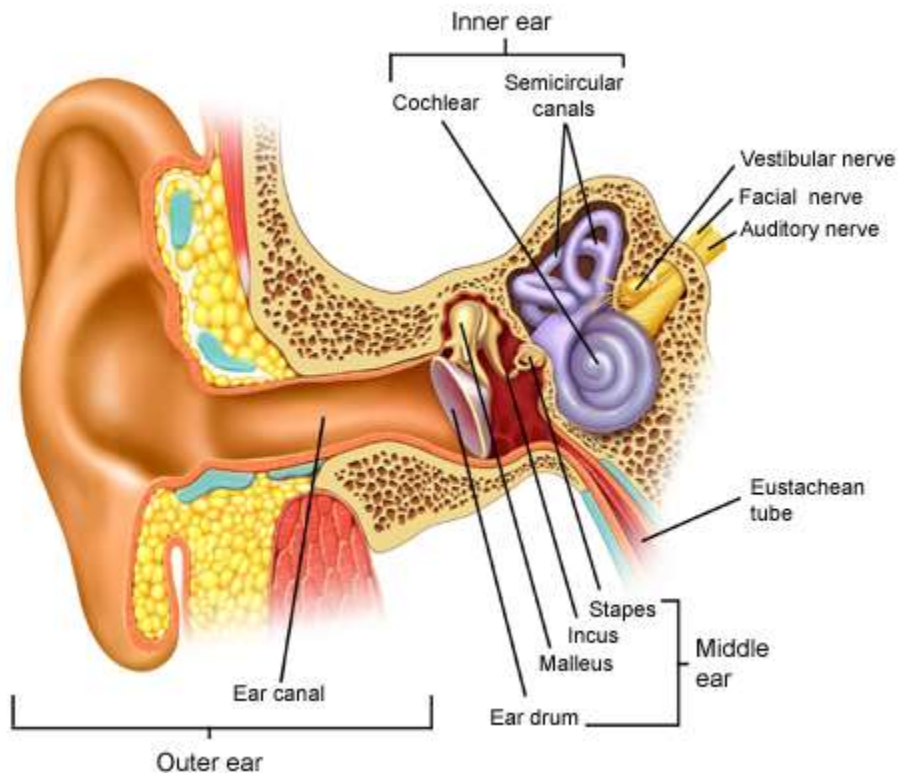


How The Ear Works

Auditory (Hearing) System — the auditory system processes sound information as it travels from the ear to the brain, so our brain pathways are part of our hearing.



Outer Ear – the outer ear is made up of the part we see on the sides of our heads, known as the pinna, the auditory (ear) canal and the eardrum (tympanic membrane), which separates the outer and middle ear.

Middle Ear – the middle ear is made up of three small bones called the ossicles (malleus, incus, stapes) that send the movement of the eardrum to the inner ear.

Inner Ear – the inner ear is made up of the snail shaped sensory organ for hearing known as the cochlea, the semicircular canals that help with balance and the nerves that go to the brain: the Vestibular Nerve, which gives information about balance, and the Auditory Nerve, which sends sound information from the ear to the brain.