**The Cerebral Cortex**

The cerebral cortex is the intricate fabric of interconnected neural cells covering the cerebral hemispheres; the body’s ultimate control and information-processing center. More advanced mammals, like humans have larger cortexes. While neurons are the more well-known neural cells with in our brains and nervous systems, there are also cells called **glial cells**, which support protect, and nourish neurons. There is evidence that they may also play a role in learning and thinking. If you looked closely at the cortex, you would see both neurons and glial cells.

Below, please label and describe the parts of the cortex. Please be aware that some parts exist within others.



**Frontal Lobe Somatosensory Cortex**

**Parietal Lobe Visual Cortex**

**Occipital Lobe Auditory Cortex**

**Parietal Lobe Broca’s Area**

**Motor Cortex Wernicke’s Area**

**Association Areas** are those parts of the cerebral cortex that are not involved in the primary motor or sensory functions; rather, they are involved in higher mental functions such as learning, remembering, thinking, and speaking.

One of the amazing aspects of the brain is its **plasticity**. It has the ability to change and reorganize after damage. There is also some evidence of **neurogenesis** in the brain, where new neurons are formed.

The two hemispheres of the brain are connected by the **corpus callosum,** a large band of neural fibers connecting the two brain hemispheres and carrying messages between them.