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Neocortex

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Synonyms

[Neopallium](#)

Definition

Neocortex (from the Latin “new bark”) is the most recently evolved component of the cerebral cortex, the outer layers of the cerebrum. This brain structure is only found in mammals. The neocortex is responsible for higher brain functions, including sensory perception, voluntary

movement, language, reasoning, memory, and planning.

Cross-References

- ▶ [Brodmann’s Areas of the Cortex](#)
- ▶ [Cerebral Cortex](#)
- ▶ [Primary Cortex](#)
- ▶ [Secondary Cortex](#)
- ▶ [Tertiary Cortex](#)

References and Reading

- Aboitiz, F., & Montiel, J. (2007). *Origin and evolution of the vertebrate telencephalon, with special reference to the mammalian neocortex*. New York: Springer.
- Mountcastle, V. (1998). *Perceptual neuroscience: The cerebral cortex*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.