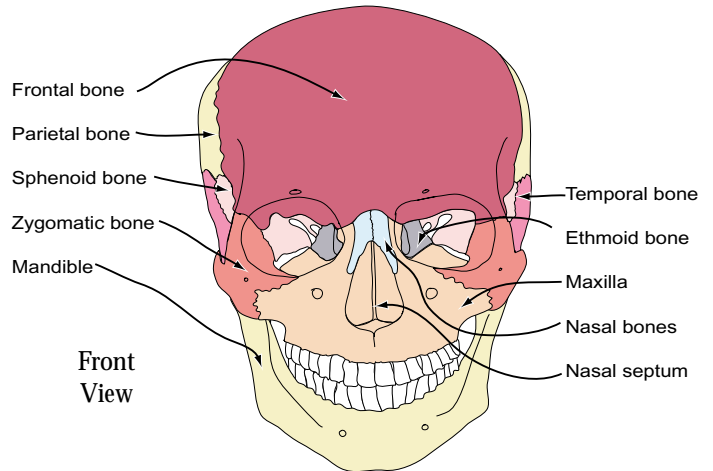
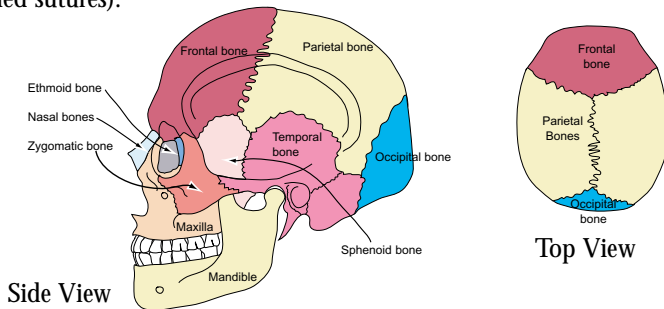


## Skull Anatomy (An Introduction)

### The Bones

The Skull is the boney foundation for the Head. It is made up of many different shaped bones that have interlocking joins (these are called sutures).



The bones that sit under the brain are: The frontal bone above the eyes, the sphenoid bone behind the eyes, the temporal bones behind this and the occipital bone folds in underneath the cerebellum at the the back (not seen).

These sutures are solid (fused) as you get older but are flexible when you are a baby. The main bones that make up the head are the bones that cover the top of the brain. Some of the skull bones have similar names to the lobes of the brain but, as you can see, the lobes of the brain are in slightly different places underneath the skull. There is one frontal and one occipital bone but paired parietal bones. These 4 bones cover most of the brain.

The frontal bone forms ridges under the eyebrows, they make up part of the cavity for the eye to sit in (orbit) as it folds in under the brain.

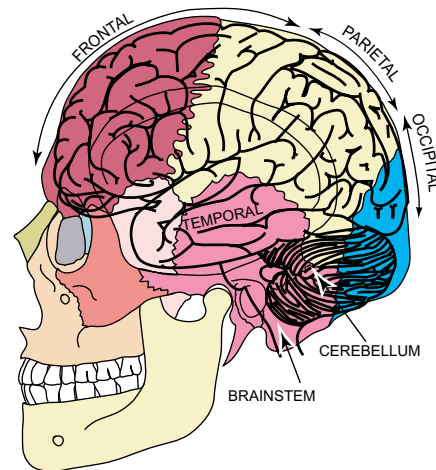
The Nasal bones form the bridge of the nose.

The Zygoma and the Maxilla combined form the prominence on the outside of the cheeks. The maxilla holds the top teeth.

In between the Orbits there are ethmoid bones that form part of the inside of the nose.

In the front view we can see that the sphenoid bone crosses the bottom of the brain from side to side behind the eyes. In the middle it contains the pituitary fossa (not shown)

The temporal bones are paired (one on each side). In real life the ear sits over this bone and you can see where it goes into the bone. The temporal bone contains the apparatus for hearing and balance. It also contains the nerve for the strength to the side of the face. Hence fracture of this bone can cause deafness, hearing loss and face weakness.



Note the position of the brain (and its lobes) inside the head. The frontal lobe sits over the eyes and above the inside of the nose. The temporal lobe sits behind the eyes and above the hole for the ear. The cerebellum sits very low in the skull and in real life this is actually mostly covered by neck muscles. Most of the occipital bone covers the cerebellum and not the occipital lobe. The brainstem which will become the spinal cord leaves the skull through a hole called the Foramen Magnum (not shown) to get into the cervical spinal canal.

