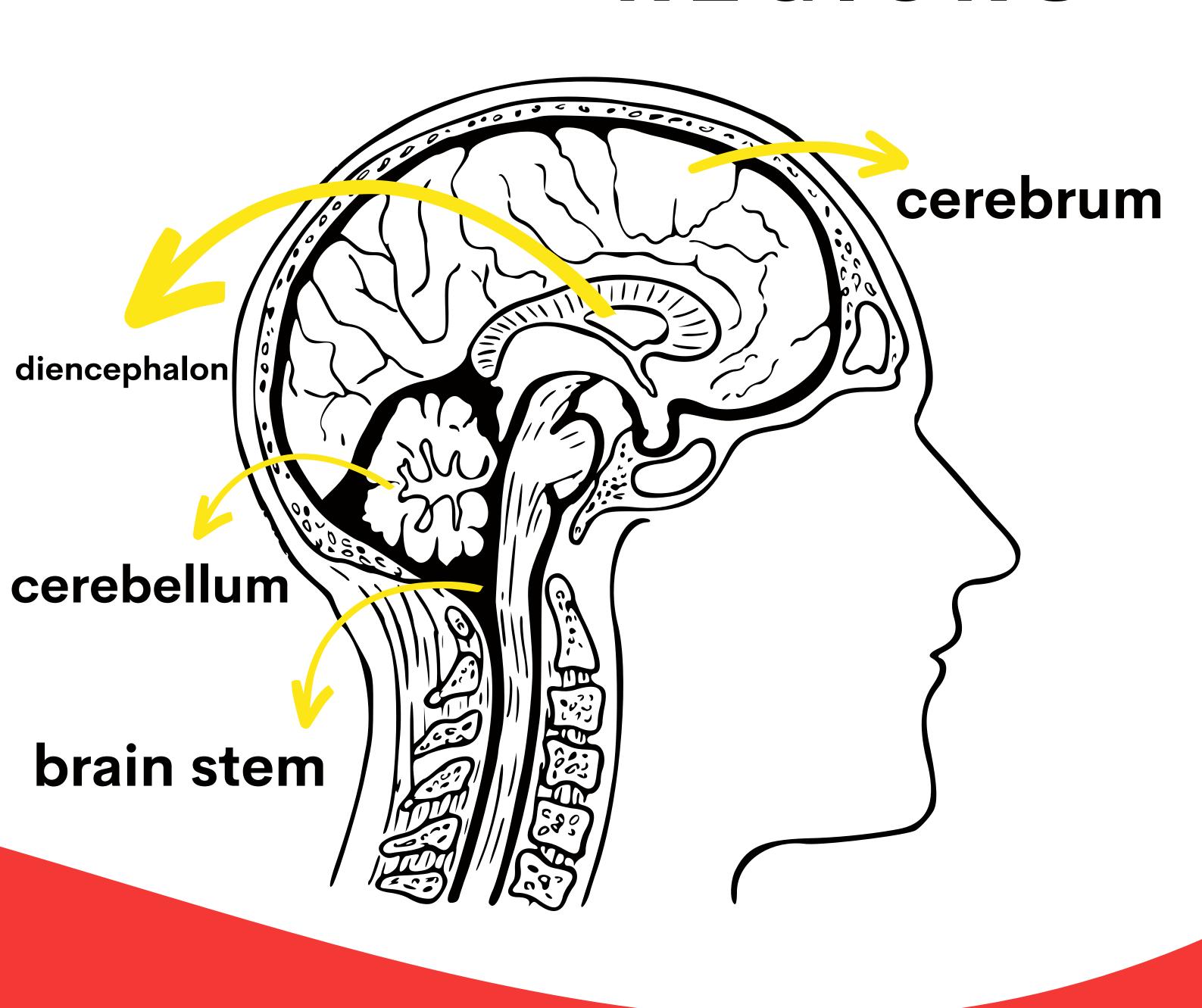


## Grief and your BRAIN

Rewiring & Refiring of our Neuropathways...

by:
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# THE HUMAN BRAIN REGIONS



#### WHEN WE EXPERIENCE GRIEF (OR ANY TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE,) IT CAN BE A CHALLENGING AND CONFUSING TIME.

This is because grief can affect different parts of our brain.

including...

prefrontal amygdala hippocampus cortex



#### prefrontal cortex

The *prefrontal cortex* is responsible for decision-making, planning, and problem-solving. During grief (or any traumatic experience), this part of the brain can become less active, which can make it harder to think clearly and make decisions.

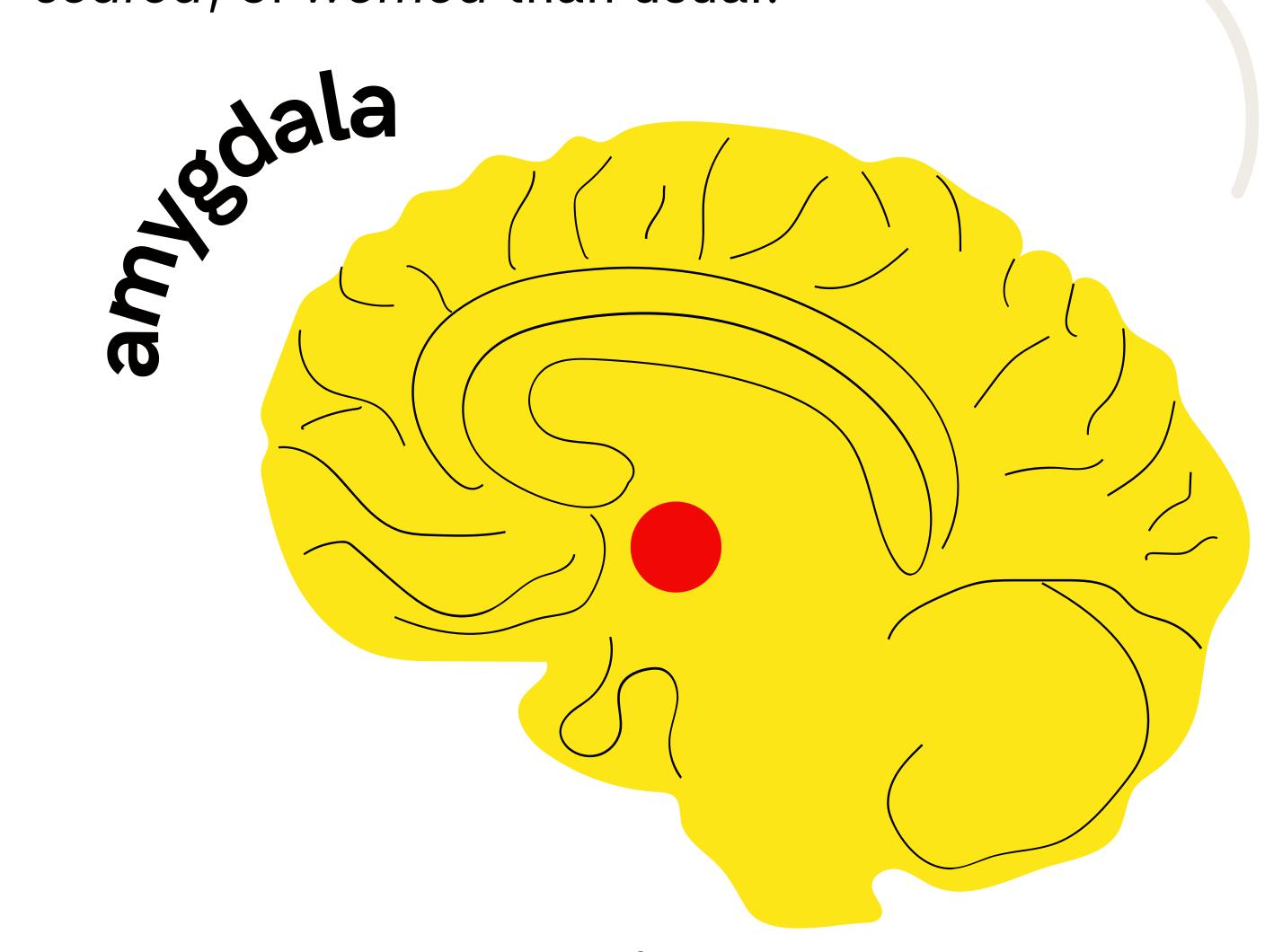


For example, you might have trouble deciding what to eat for dinner or what to wear in the morning or just difficulty and delay in making decisions, period.

the "personality center"

## amygdala

The *amygdala* is responsible for **regulating emotions**, including *fear and anxiety*. During grief, this part of the brain can become *more active*, which can make us feel *more anxious*, *scared*, or *worried* than usual.

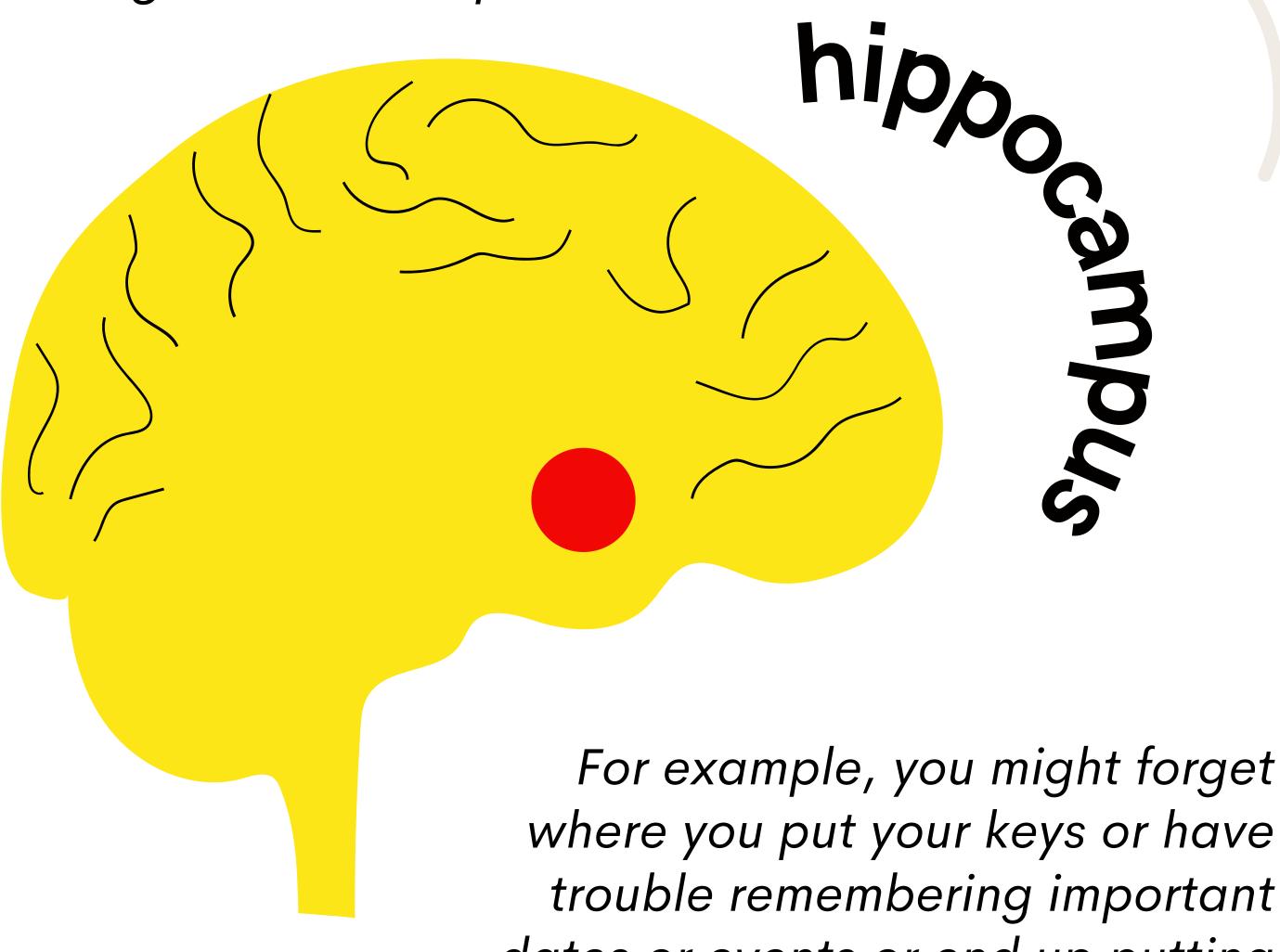


For example, you might feel more on edge, anxious or fearful when you're in a new or unfamiliar situation.

the "fight, flight or freeze"

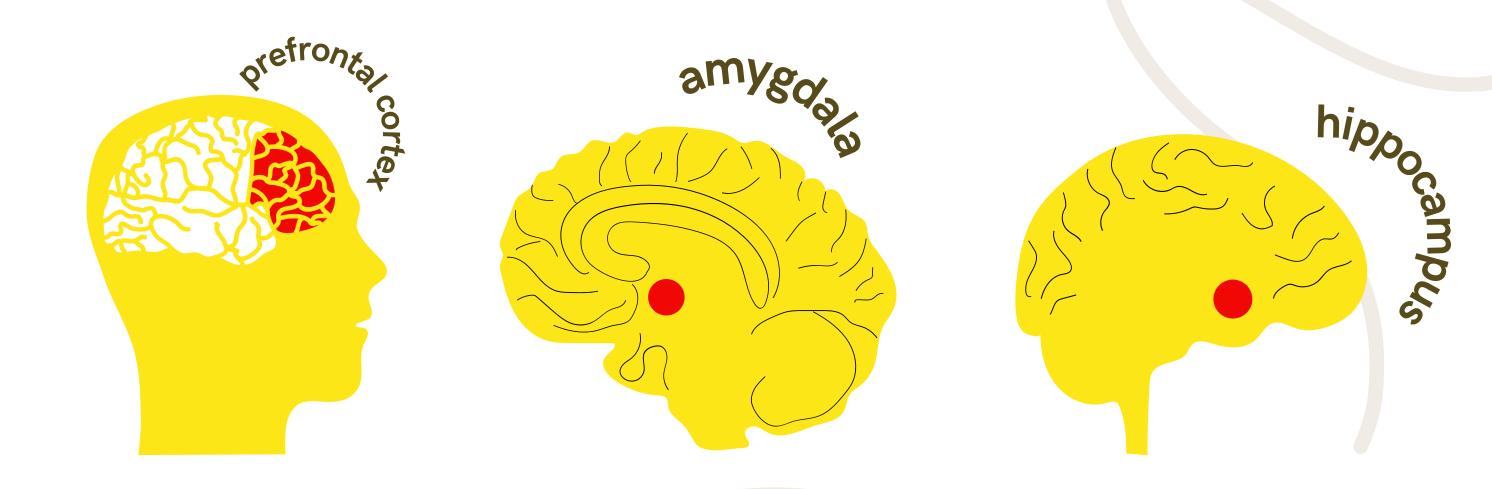
### hippocampus

The *hippocampus* is responsible for **memory** and learning. During grief (or any traumatic experience), this part of the brain can be affected, which can make it harder to *remember things or recall important details*.



where you put your keys or have trouble remembering important dates or events or end up putting ice-cream in the pantry and can spaphetti in the freezer -- it's happended to me more times that I can count.

These changes in the brain can contribute to feelings of **confusion and overwhelm** during the grieving process.



However, to support our healing process, it is important to engage in activities that promote brain health and resilience, e.g., exercise, healthy eating, reading, puzzles, mindful meditation, and engaging in activities that bring you joy and fulfillment and help support brain function while it heals and adapts.

Seeking support from loved ones, therapy, or support groups can also be helpful for processing emotions and receiving support.



Overall, while grief or other traumatic life experience can impact different parts of our brain and contribute to feelings of confusion and overwhelm, it's important to remember that healing is possible and that we can find ways to support our brain and well-being during the grieving process.

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