

Prepared by Patty Bostwick-Taylor, **Florence-Darlington Technical College**

CHAPTER

Special Senses



ESSENTIAL **OFHUMANANATOM AND PHYSIOLOGY**

ELAINE N. MARIEB

SENSE OF HEARING / EQUILIBRIUM

(2) The Ear

- Houses two senses
 - •Hearing
 - Equilibrium (balance)

Receptors are mechanoreceptors

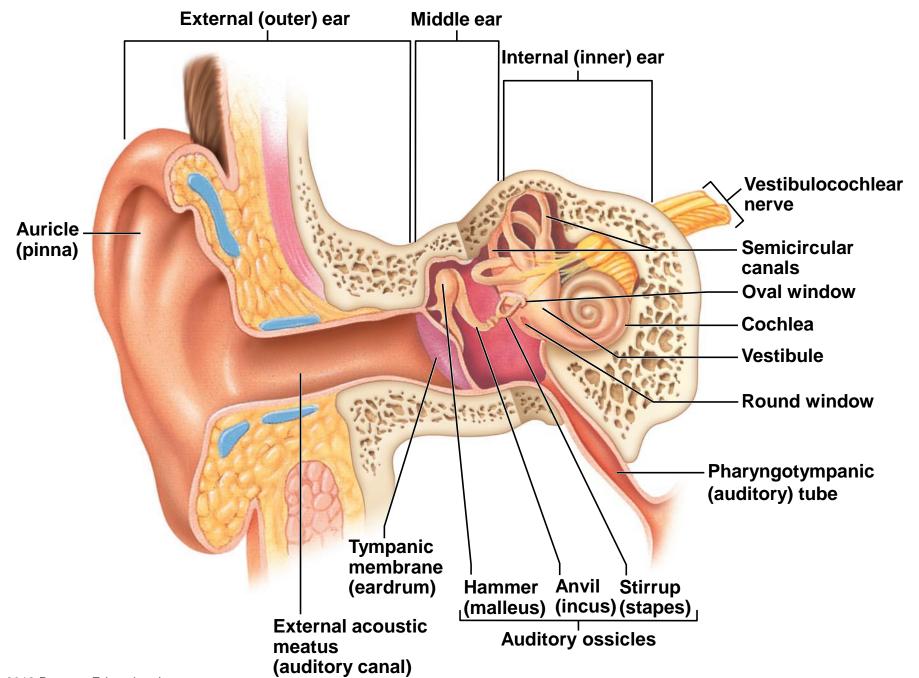
Different organs house receptors for each sense

Anatomy of the Ear

• The ear is divided into three areas:

- (a) External (outer) ear
- (b) Middle ear (tympanic cavity)

• (c) Inner ear (bony labyrinth)



(a) The External Ear

- Involved in <u>hearing only</u>
- Structures of the external ear
 - Auricle (pinna)
 - External acoustic meatus (auditory canal)
 - Narrow chamber in the temporal bone
 - Lined with skin and ceruminous (wax) glands
 - Ends at the tympanic membrane

(b) The Middle Ear (Tympanic Cavity)

Air-filled cavity within the temporal bone

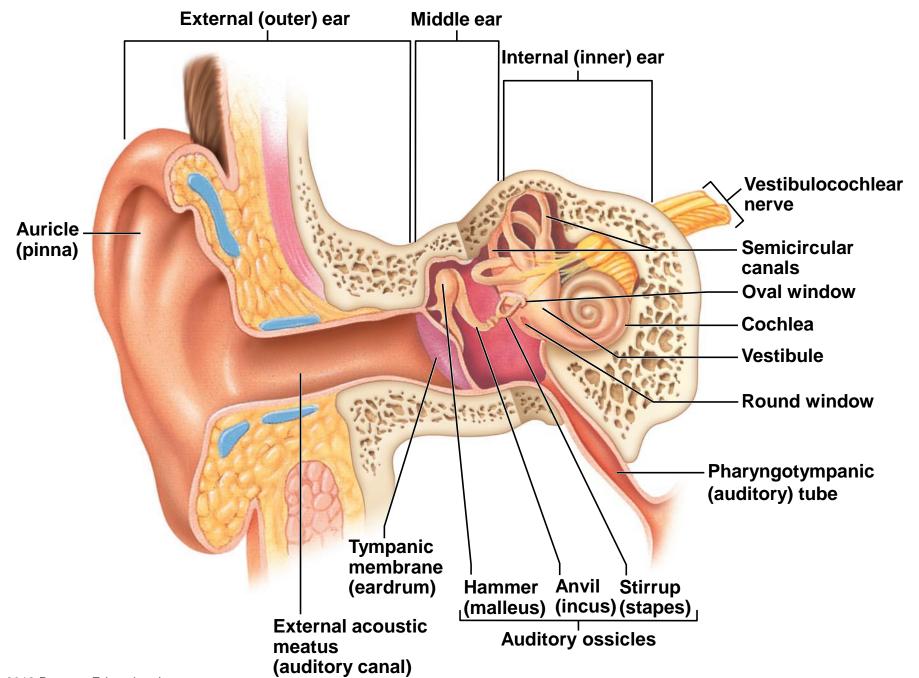
Only involved in the sense of <u>hearing</u>

The Middle Ear (Tympanic Cavity)

- Two tubes are associated with the inner ear
 - (i) **Pharyngotympanic** tube (auditory tube) is the opening from the auditory canal is covered by the tympanic membrane
 - (ii) Connects the middle ear with the throat
 - Allows for equalizing pressure during yawning or swallowing
 - This tube is otherwise collapsed

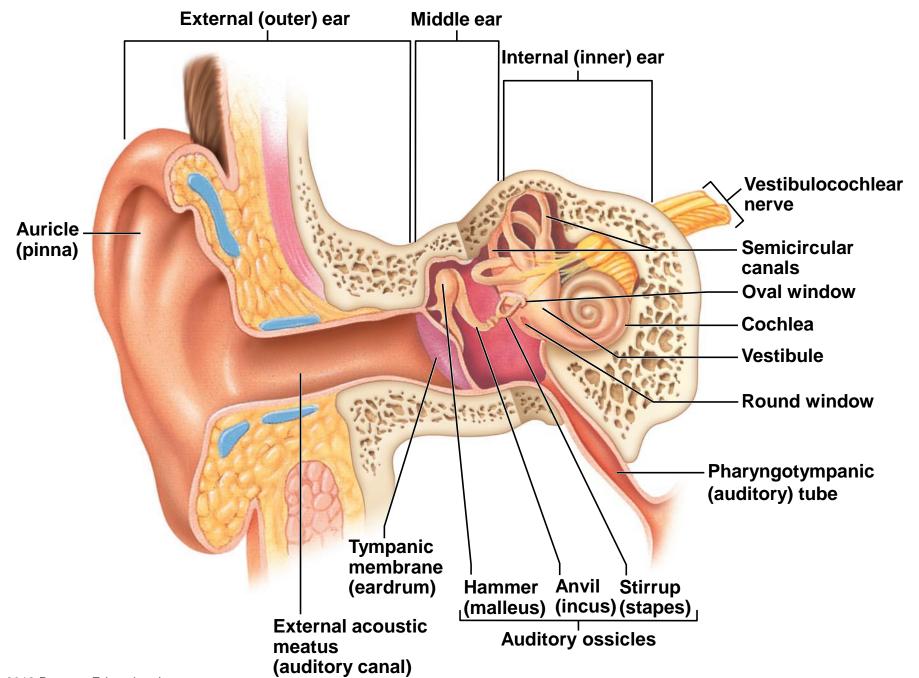
Bones of the Middle Ear (Tympanic Cavity)

- Three bones (ossicles) span the cavity
 - Malleus (hammer)
 - Incus (anvil)
 - Stapes (stirrup)
- Function
 - Vibrations from eardrum (tympanic membrane) move the:
 - hammer → anvil → stirrup → oval window of inner ear



(c) Inner Ear or Bony Labyrinth

- Includes sense organs for hearing and balance
- Filled with perilymph and endolymph
- Contains a maze of bony chambers within the temporal bone
 - Cochlea
 - Vestibule
 - Semicircular canals

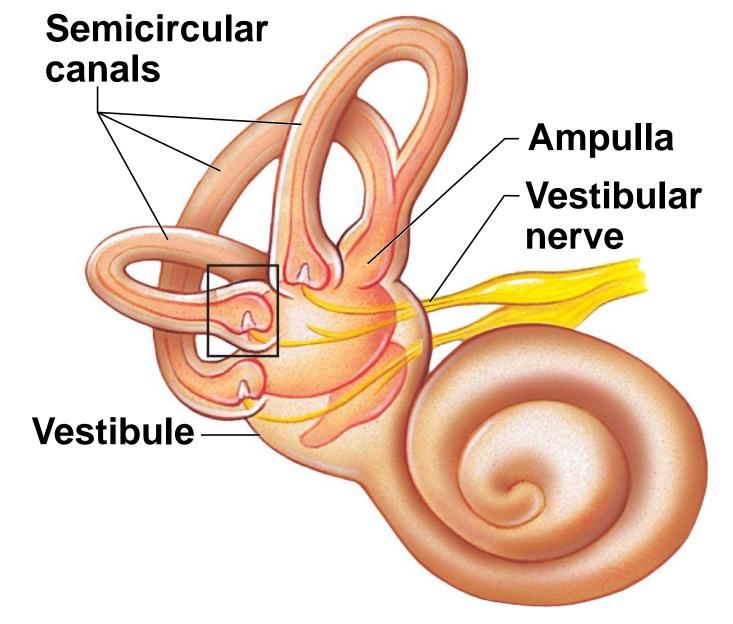


Organs of Equilibrium XXXXXXXXXXX

- Equilibrium receptors of the inner ear are called the vestibular apparatus
- Vestibular apparatus has two functional parts

Static equilibrium

Dynamic equilibrium

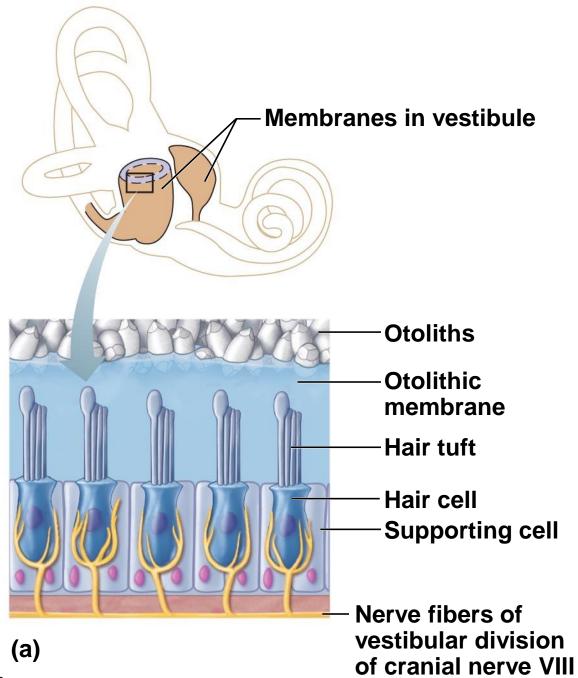


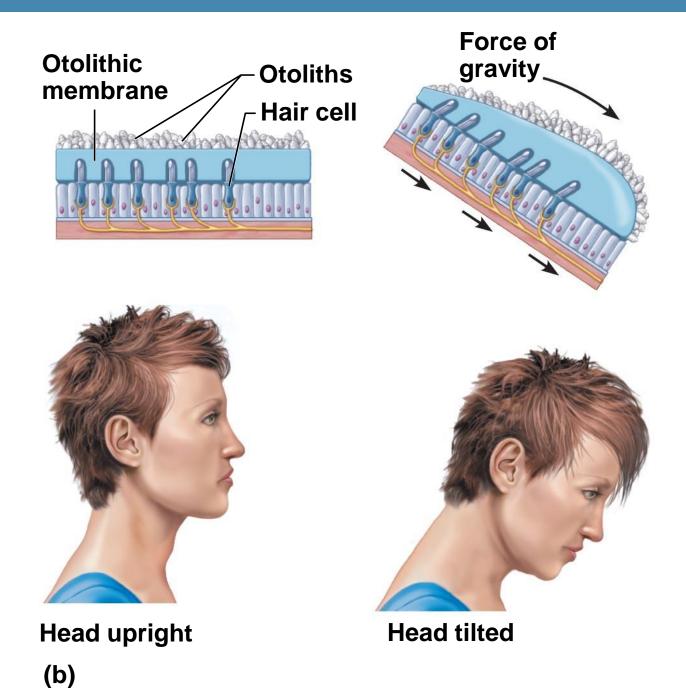
Static Equilibrium

•Maculae — receptors in the vestibule

- Report on the position of the head
- Send information via the vestibular nerve

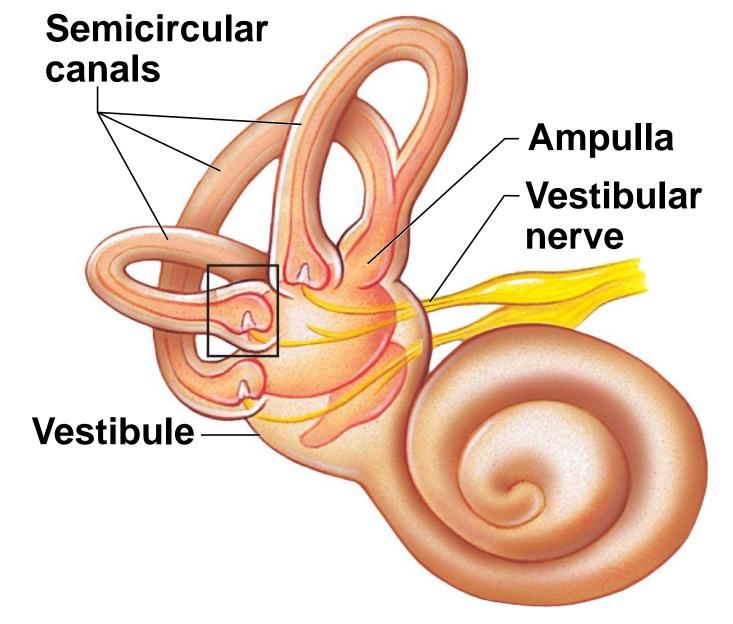
- Anatomy of the maculae
 - Hair cells are embedded in the otolithic membrane
 - Otoliths (tiny stones) float in a gel around the hair cells
 - Movements cause otoliths to bend the hair cells

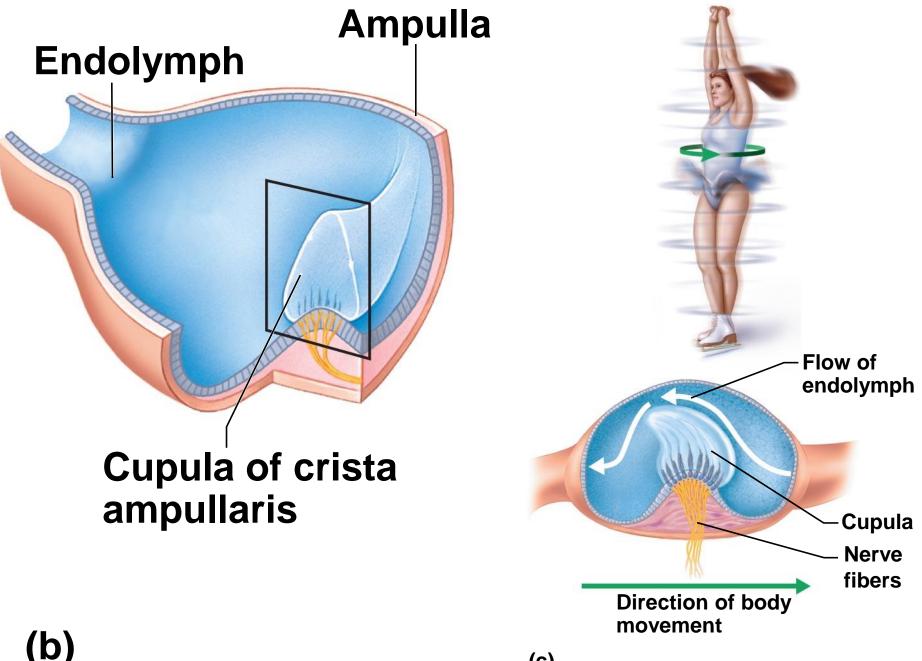




Dynamic Equilibrium

- These receptors respond to angular or rotary movements
- Crista ampullaris (in the ampulla of each semicircular canal) — dynamic equilibrium receptors are located in the semicircular canals
 - Tuft of hair cells covered with cupula (gelatinous cap)
 - If the head moves, the cupula drags against the endolymph





Dynamic Equilibrium

Action of angular head movements

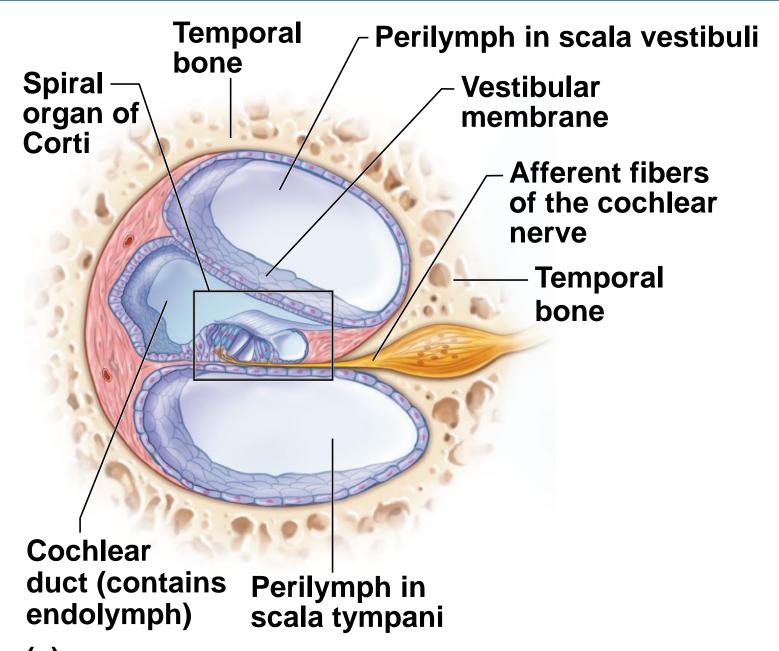
 The movement of the cupula stimulates the hair cells

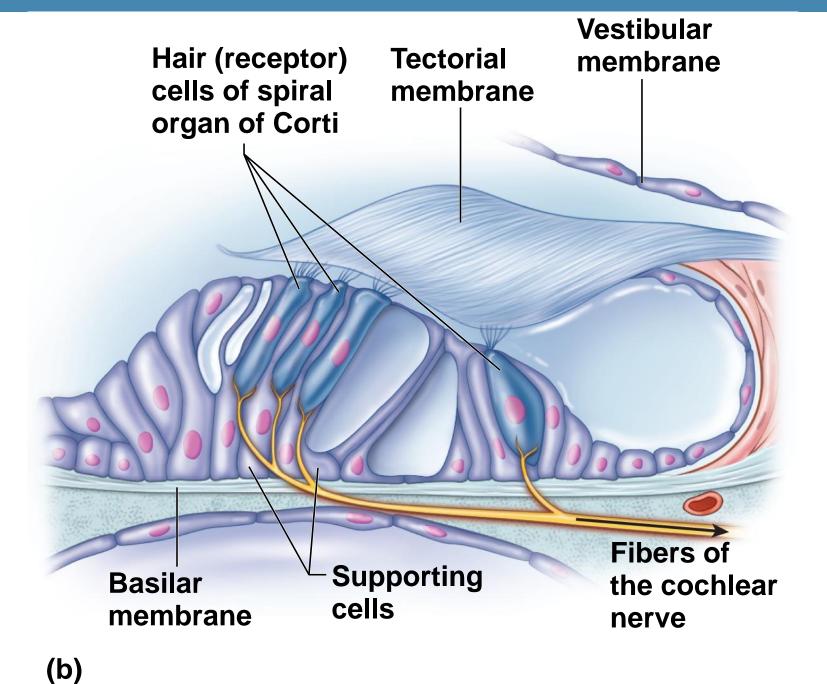
 An impulse is sent via the vestibular nerve to the cerebellum

Organs of Hearing

Organ of Corti

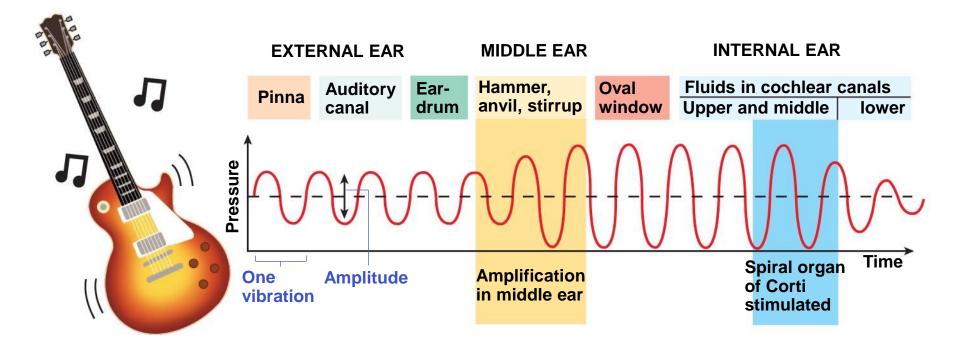
- Located within the cochlea
- Receptors = hair cells on the basilar membrane
- Gel-like tectorial membrane is capable of bending hair cells
- Cochlear nerve attached to hair cells transmits nerve impulses to auditory cortex on temporal lobe





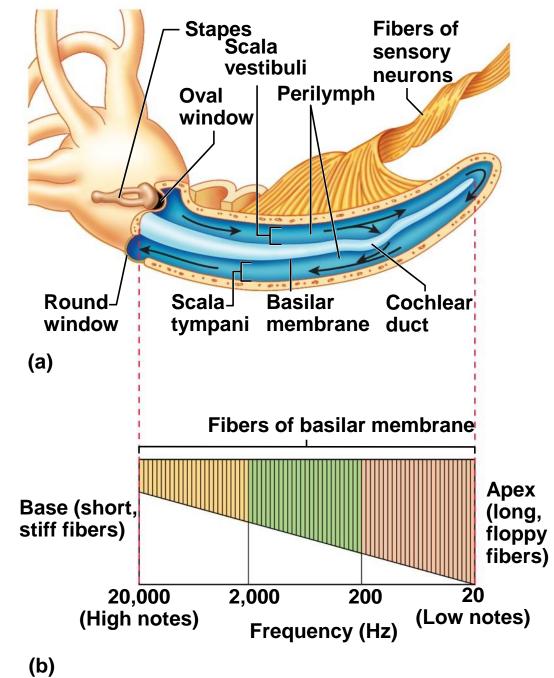
Mechanism of Hearing [NOTE WELL]

- Vibrations from sound waves move tectorial membrane
- Hair cells are bent by the membrane
- An action potential starts in the cochlear nerve
 Impulse travels to the temporal lobe
- Continued stimulation can lead to adaptation



Mechanism of Hearing

- High-pitched sounds disturb the short, stiff fibers of the basilar membrane
 - Receptor cells close to the oval window are stimulated
- Low-pitched sounds disturb the long, floppy fibers of the basilar membrane
 - Specific hair cells further along the cochlea are affected



Developmental Aspects of the Special Senses

- Ear problems
 - Presbycusis type of sensorineural deafness

• Otosclerosis — ear ossicles fuse

• Tinnitus – a noise or ringing in the ears

Page 166 and 167 #15

- 1. E External Acoustic Meatus
- 2. I Pinna
- 3. M Tympanic Membrane
- 4. C Cochlea
- 5. K Semicircular Canals
- 6. N Vestibule
- 7. A Anvil
- 8. F Hammer
- 9. L Stirrup
- 10. K Semicircular Canals

- 11. N Vestibule
- 12. B Pharyngotympanic Membrane
- 13. M Tympanic Membrane
- 14. C Cochlea
- 15. B Pharyngotympanic Membrane
- 16. K Semicircular Canals
- 17. N Vestibule
- 18. G Oval window
- 19. D Endolymph
- 20. H Perilymph