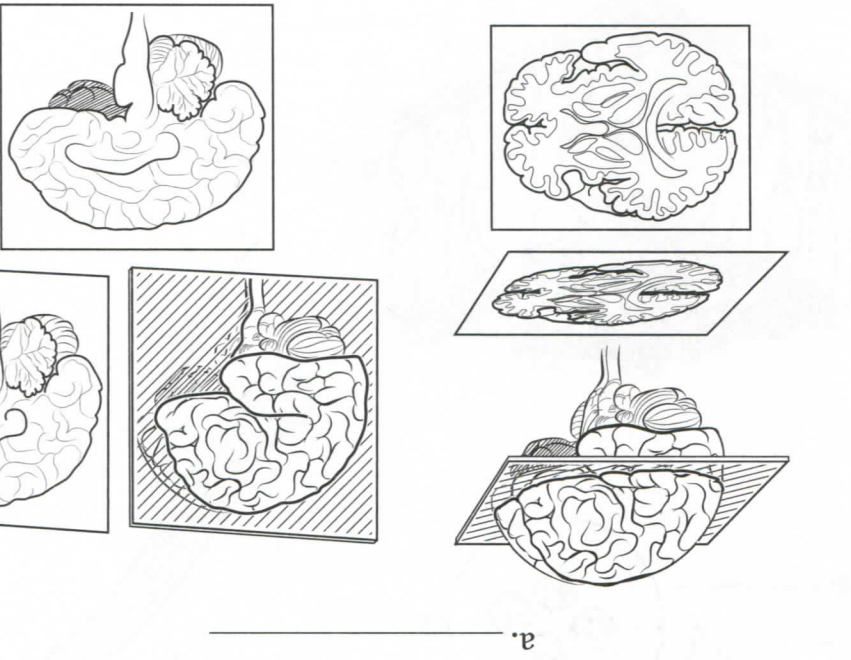
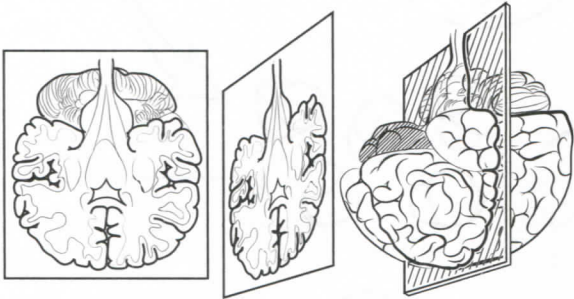
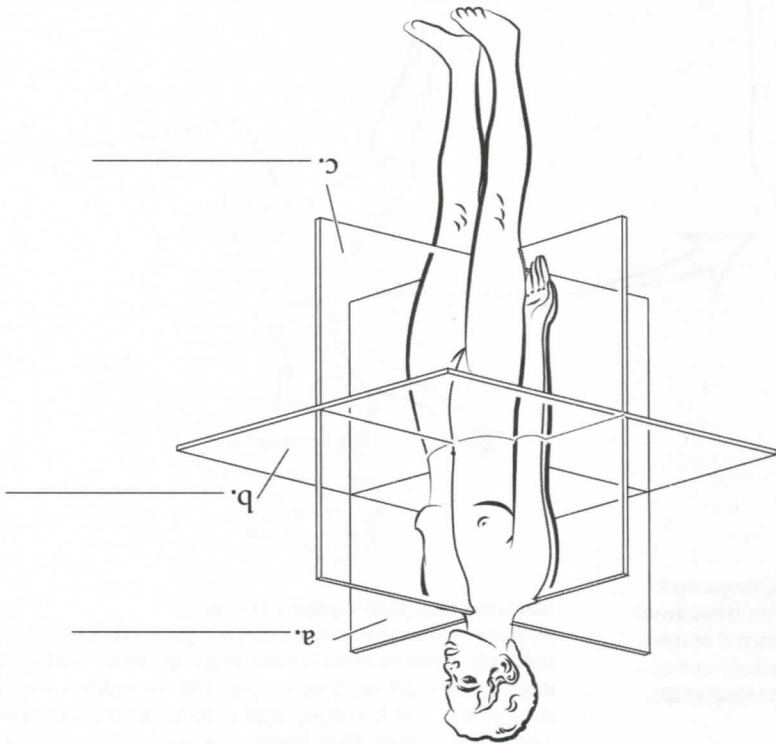


ANATOMICAL PLANES OF THE BODY

Many specimens in anatomy are sectioned so that the interior of the organ or region can be examined. It is important that the direction of the cut is known so that the proper orientation of the specimen is known. A heart looks very different if it is cut along its length as opposed to horizontally. A horizontal cut is known as a **transverse section** or a **cross section**. A cut that divides the body or an organ into anterior and posterior parts is a **coronal section** or **frontal section**. One that divides the structure into left and right parts is a **sagittal section**. If the body is divided directly down the middle, the section is known as a **mid-sagittal section**. A mid-sagittal section is reserved for dividing the body into to equal left and right parts. If an organ (such as the eye) is sectioned into two equal parts such that there is a left and right half, then this is known as a **median section**. Label the illustrations and color in the appropriate planes.



Answer Key: a. Frontal (coronal) plane, b. Transverse (cross-section) plane, c. Median (mid-sagittal) plane