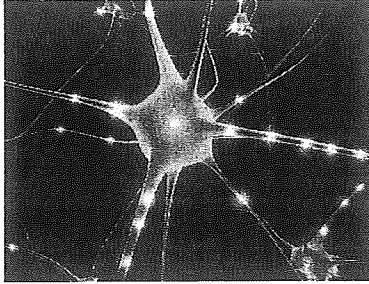


Pipe Cleaner Neuron



Objective: To explore the structure and function of the parts of a neuron.

Materials: Pipe cleaners (precut and separated by size: long, 1/3, 1/4, and 1/8 length).

Directions: Students will learn about special cells called neurons that make up the brain and spinal cord while building a neuron out of pipe cleaners.

There are 5 basic parts to a neuron, as you build each part, explain its function. There are over 100 billion neurons in your brain!

1) **Cell body:** take one long pipe cleaner and roll it into a ball.

Role - _____

2) **Axon:** take another long pipe cleaner and attach it to the new "cell body" by pushing it through the ball so there are 2 halves sticking out. Take the 2 halves and twist them together into a single extension.

Role - _____

3) **Dendrites:** take 2 short pipe cleaners (1/3 length) of the same color and push them through the "cell body" on the side opposite the axon.

Role - _____

4) **Myelin Sheath:** wrap 4 short pipe cleaners (1/8 length) of the same color evenly spaced along the length of the axon.

Role - _____

5) **Synaptic Button:** wrap a small pipe cleaner (1/4 length) on the end of the axon.

Role- _____
