

Make a neuron

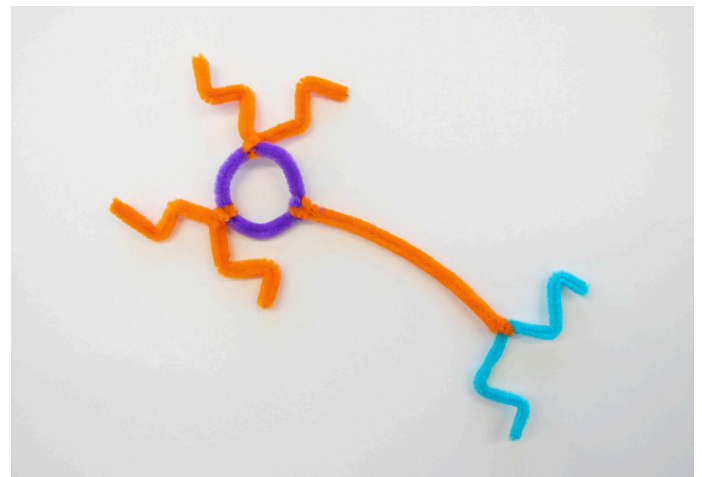
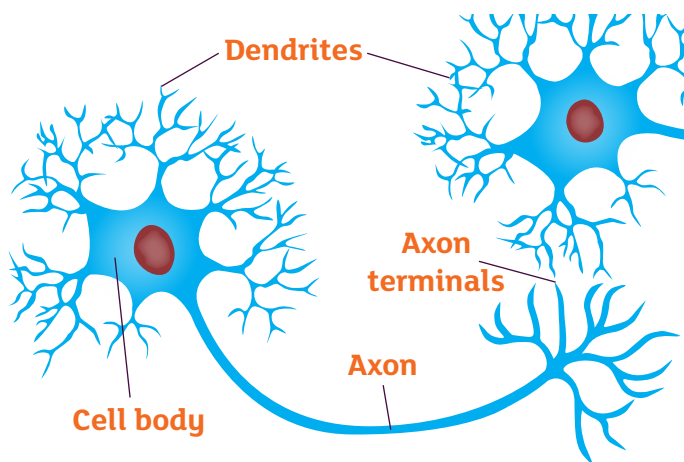
A neuron is another name for a nerve cell. A neuron has four main parts:

The cell body – the centre of the neuron, also called the soma. The cell body is the control centre of the cell. It instructs the rest of the neuron how to work. It contains all the 'factories' that produce the molecules a neuron needs to stay healthy.

The dendrites – small branches that come out of the cell body and bring in electrical signals from neighbouring neurons.

The axon – a long tail-like part of the neuron that carries electrical signals away from the cell body.

The axon terminals – where the axon branches into lots of endings that pass signals onto other neurons.



What to do?

You can use pipe cleaners to make your own neuron.

1. Take one pipe cleaner and make it into a circle. This is the cell body.
2. Wind some other pipe cleaners around the cell body and splay them out from one side of the cell body. These are the dendrites.
3. Wind one end of a pipe cleaner around the cell body to make a long tail on your cell. This is the axon of the neuron.
4. Wind a pipe cleaner around the end of the axon, splaying out the ends. These are the axon terminals.

Next steps

You can make a neuron network artwork by sticking everyone's neurons on a wall. Why not write your earliest or favourite memory on a piece of paper and attach it to your neuron in the network?