

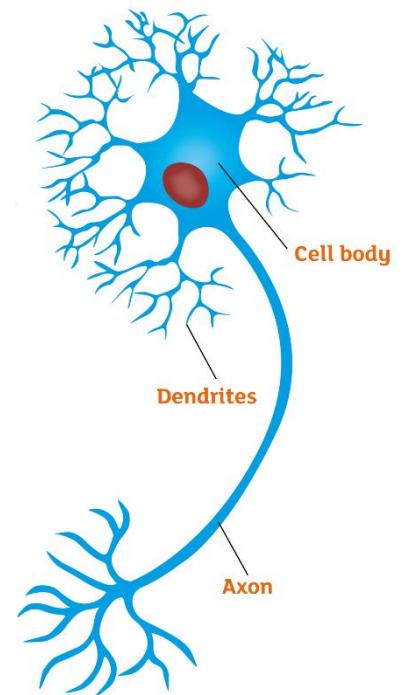
## Make a nerve cell

Our brains control everything we think, feel, say and do. Inside our brains we have around 80 billion nerve cells. Luckily, they are tiny, so we can fit them all in — about 30,000 nerve cells could fit on a pinhead!

A nerve cell connects to lots of others and every second, millions of electrical signals journey through your brain getting passed between nerve cells, a bit like a tiny game of pass the parcel.

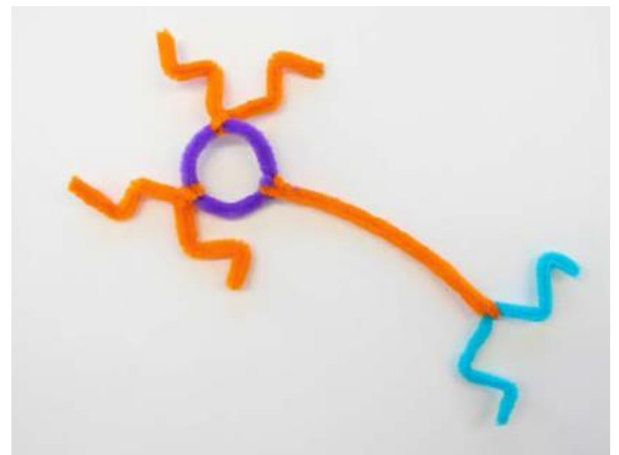
When you learn something new, nerve cells make new connections. When you remember something, a signal passes through these connections.

In this activity, make your own nerve cell out of pipe cleaners and learn about some of the amazing parts of these cells.



### Instructions

1. Take a pipe cleaner and make it into a circle. Twist the ends of the pipe cleaner around to tighten. This is the cell body and the control centre of the cell. It tells the rest of the nerve cell how to work.
2. The small branches that come out of the cell body and receive signals are called dendrites. Wind more pipe cleaners around the cell body and splay them out from one side of the cell body to make the dendrites.
3. Bend another long pipe cleaner around the cell body and then around itself to make a long tail on your cell. This is called the axon, it carries electrical signals to the end of the cell.
4. Twist more pipe cleaners around the end of the pipe cleaner axon. These are the branches that pass connections onto the next nerve cell.



### Next steps

The way your nerve cells link up in your brain is really important for forming memories.

1. Write your very earliest memory, or one of your favourite memories on to a piece of paper and stick it on to your nerve cell.
2. You could make a few nerve cells or get others at home to make one, and join them up to form a big network.

Why not submit pictures of your creations on the Memory Board ([alzres.uk/memoryboard](https://alzres.uk/memoryboard))