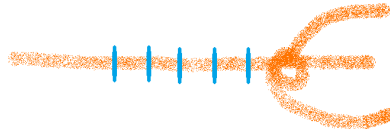


How to make a pipecleaner neuron.

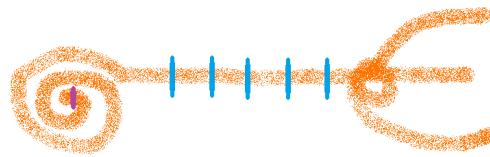
1. Take a pipecleaner and cut it in half.
2. Take one half and straighten it out. This will be the axon.
3. Thread five beads onto your axon to represent the myelin sheath.



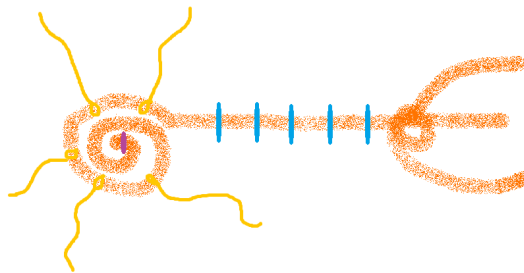
4. Twist the other half of your pipecleaner around one end of your axon to make tendrils that will represent the axon terminal.



5. Take another pipecleaner and put one bead on the end of it, this bead represents the nucleus.
6. Twist this pipecleaner into a spiral around the bead, and attach it to the other end of your axon, this will represent the cell body.



7. Cut five short lengths of string and tie them around the edges of your cell body, these represent the dendrites.



How long is the cell body of your neuron model?

Cell bodies of the neurons in our bodies are about 0.01mm long.

Is your model cell body bigger or smaller than a real one?

Can you work out by how much?

How long is the axon of your neuron?

The longest axons in your body can be longer than a 1m.

Is your model axon bigger or smaller than a real one?

Can you work out by how much?

Having compared the sizes of your model to the lengths of real neurons, do you think that this model is helpful in thinking about neurons? Can you think of a way to make a more accurate model?
