Neural Connection Activity

Background

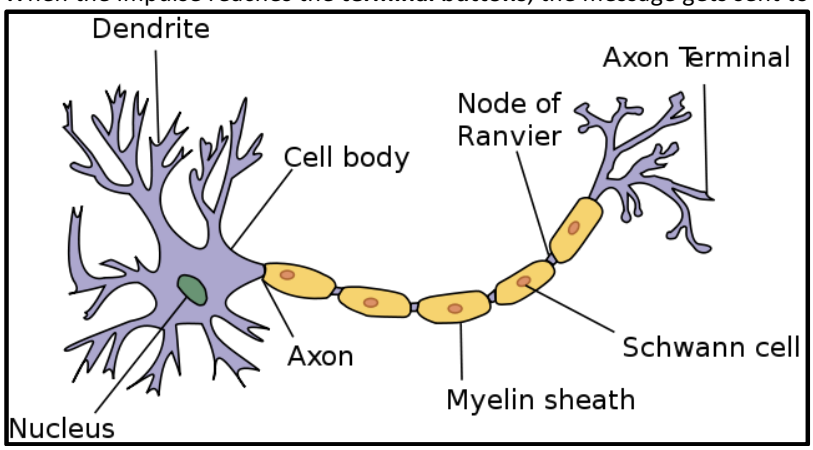
The cells in your nervous system are the great communicators in your body. Anytime you think, breathe, move, walk and run, your brain relays information to the rest of your body to do its job. These cells, called **neurons**, have many different parts that make this possible.

Dendrites allow neurons to receive information from neurons, like your ears allow you to play telephone with a friend.

The **soma**, or body of the neuron, allows it to collect the information and process it, similar to your brain.

When the soma wants to pass information onto the next neuron, it sends an electrical impulse down the **axon**.

When the impulse reaches the **terminal buttons**, the message gets sent to the next neuron.



Materials:

- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers
- Glitter glue
- Felt paper
- Pipe Cleaners
- Googly eyes

Procedure:

- One student will be the “thought”, and will create an art project. Other students will be the neurons, passing information along the line by whispers, simulating neurotransmitters to reach the end person, who will recreate the original project. Halfway through, if it is not working or going to slow, they will turn to using paper notes and just pass the paper. The person at the end of the line will be recreating what is on the other side. The only person to see the original art project is the person creating it.
- Size accommodation: (small group, stay together; large group, split in to two groups)
- Age modification: younger children will have a volunteer making the art project for them to speed up the process so they can focus on the descriptions being passed on.

Results/reflection:

- How do neurons help us in our everyday life?
- Neurons serve many functions in our body, how many neurons do you think we have?
- Do neurons only exist in our brain?