Build an Edible Nerve Cell Model

**Objectives:** Build a model of a nerve cell and label the parts of the cell.

**Materials needed:** construction paper, markers, candy (2 – 3 individual strings from a bundle of pull n’ peel Twizzlers, 1 chocolate covered raisin, 1 fun straw, 3-5 mini- marshmallows, and 1 small ball of cotton candy)

**Directions:**

1. Lay a piece of construction paper on your table or desk.
2. Begin building your nerve cell with the fun straw as the axon, and add the mini-marshmallows to the fun straw. Leave some space between each marshmallow. The mini-marshmallows will represent the Schwann Cells/Myelin sheaths.
3. Add the small ball of cotton candy to the end of the fun straw. The cotton candy represents the cell body.
4. Add the chocolate covered raisin to the middle of the cotton candy. The chocolate covered raisin represents the nucleus.
5. Add small strings of the Pull ‘n’ Peel Twizzlers to the cotton candy. The Twizzler strings represent the dendrites. You can add small pieces of cotton candy around the strings so there won’t be confusion between the dendrites and axon terminal.
6. Add small strings of the Pull ‘n’ Peel Twizzlers to the other end of the fun straw. The Twizzler strings represent the axon terminal.
7. Lay your nerve cell on your construction paper and label the parts of the nerve cell on the paper.
8. Wait for your teacher to check your model.
9. Once your teacher checks your work, you can eat your nerve cell!

**Parts of a Nerve Cell:**

Axon, axon hillock, nucleus, cell body/soma, Nodes of Ranvier, Schwann Cells/Myelin Sheath, dendrites, axon terminal