



Activity: Modeling the Vertebral Column

What is the Vertebral Column?

The vertebral column is what most people think the spinal cord is. However, the spinal cord is surrounded by bones that protect it called vertebrae. The vertebrae are stacked on top of each other to create the vertebral column.

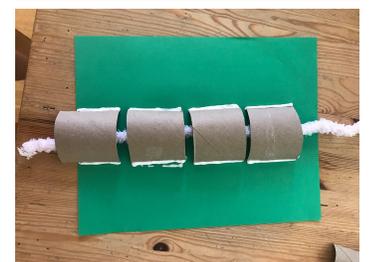
Activity Directions:

We are going to be making a model of the cross-section (if you cut it in half) of the vertebral column. Here are the materials you will need:

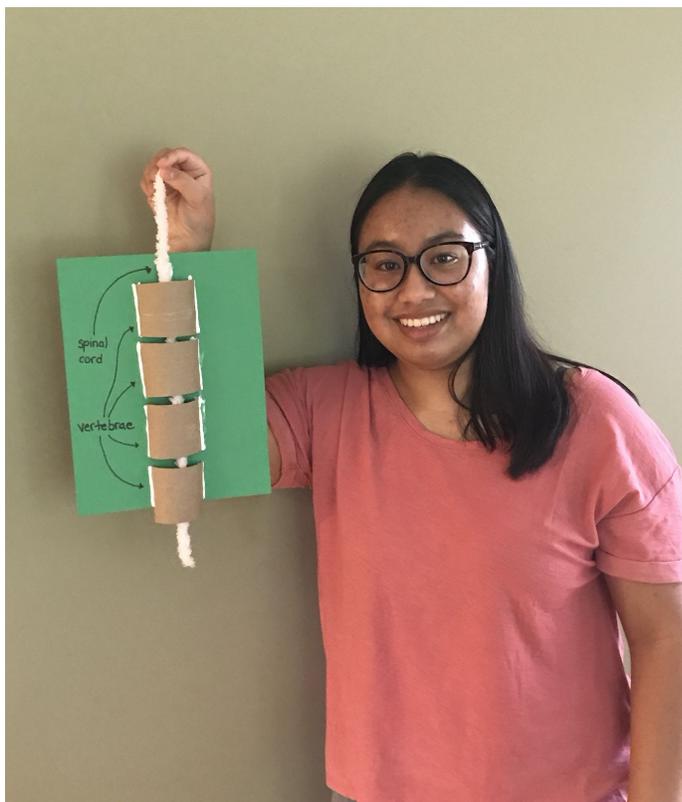
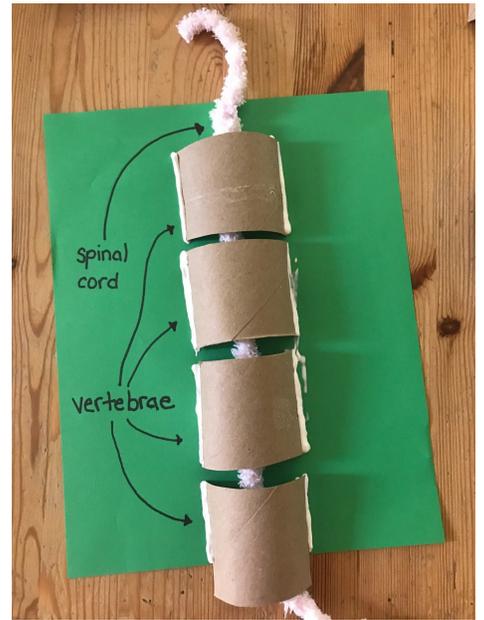
- 1 empty paper towel roll or 2-3 empty toilet paper rolls
- A pair of scissors
- A long piece of string, wire, or lanyard
- A piece of paper
- Glue, tape, or any adhesive you have at home
- A pen or marker

Procedures:

1. Cut the paper towel/toilet paper roll in half long wise so that the roll no longer looks like a tunnel and has two pieces that look like slides
2. Cut each half into 2-4 inch length pieces in the opposite direction. You will probably have 4-5 pieces that fit on the paper.
3. Use your glue, tape, or other adhesive to stick the pieces in a line on the piece of paper to make a tunnel, but leave at least $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch of space in between each piece.
4. Take your long piece of string, wire, or lanyard, and pull it under the tunnel you have created. Glue the top part of the string to the paper.



- Using your marker, labeling what are the vertebrae and what is the spinal cord.
- Take a picture of the model so that you can see all the parts of your model and your labels in the picture, and send it to me (elliepan8@gmail.com) when you are finished!



If you have any questions, contact me using the email listed in the procedures, and I'm excited to see the models you are able to create!

