

How to Build a Brain: Summary



STEPS

Start with three or four colors of clay or play dough.



Create two equal sized hemispheres, each about an inch in diameter. Mold them into an egg shape.



Press each egg shape into the desk to flatten one side. Form them so they fit together. Do not press so hard that they stick. Open them apart again.

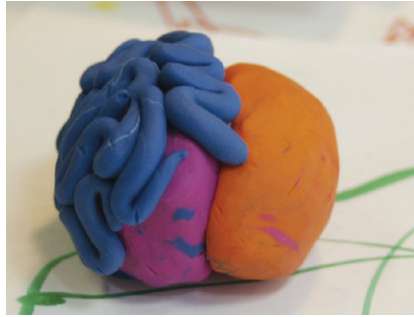


Make a small curved cylinder with pointed ends and add it between the hemispheres. This is the corpus collosum. It acts as a bridge between the hemispheres.

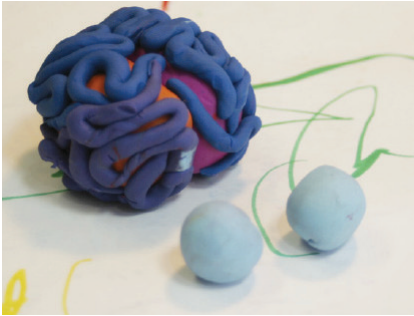


Add the corpus collosum to the model. The corpuscollosum is the “hard body” which connects the left and right hemispheres helping them communicate.

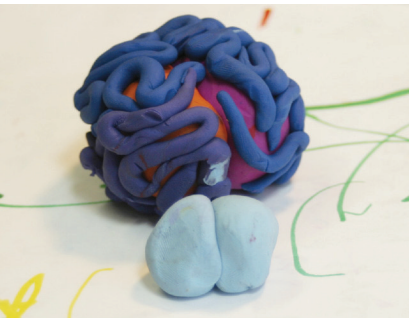
CLAY BRAINS



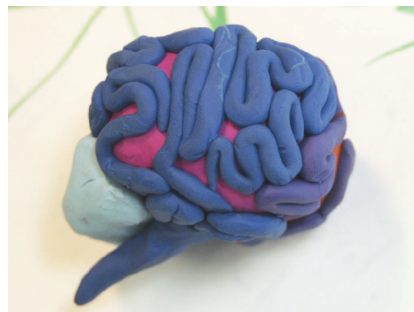
The gyri (blue rolls) can be added now or after the cerebellum. Roll and mold long “worms” to wrap onto the cortex as gyri; the sulci are the grooves between the gyri.



The cerebellum is now added to the hind, lower part of the brain. The cerebellum coordinates messages in and out of the brain, and helps with balance and motor coordination.



The cerebellum has two hemispheres. They appear connected and should be pressed together until they fuse. The long, thin horizontal folds can be carved in with a toothpick.



Lastly, add the brainstem. The brainstem helps with automatic functions of heartbeat, breathing and coordination..

You’re finished! Often, the atmosphere is ripe for brain jokes. “What a lovely brain you have!” Please hold up your brain to show the class.

Assessment ideas: Label the parts and the functions of each part. Make toothpick labels and a list with functions of each part. Create an annotated illustration to go with the model. Or, make a color key with parts and functions defined.