

A STEM in the Park

Take Home Activity

STEM

in the **PARK**™

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

Bendy Bones

What You Need

- 9 bendy straws
- 4 pipe cleaners (1 must be white)
- Scissors
- Hole puncher
- 1 large marshmallow
- Black marker



What To Do

1. Cut 4 pipe cleaners and 9 straws
 - Straws: 5 small, 2 medium, and 2 large
 - Pipe Cleaners: 2 uncut, 1 half cut, and 3 small (approx. 3")
2. The two largest pipe cleaners will form the legs and torso. Place one large straw piece over one of the legs, making sure a little pipe cleaner is poking out one end. Put the other large straw piece onto the other leg. Twist the remaining ends of the pipe cleaners together all the way up.
3. Cut 5 small square "spine" pieces out of some leftover straw. Thread these down the torso to the legs. Then thread one of the small straw pieces down on top of these (this will be the upper body).

Continued on back

What To Do cont.

4. Punch two holes on either side of the upper body piece with a hole puncher, just below the bend (for the arm socket). Then cut three slits down either side beneath the holes (for the rib sockets).
5. Flatten and fold one end of a medium straw piece (arm).
6. Push it through both punched holes. Fold then slide your other medium piece of straw through the first to form the second arm. Push the medium pipe cleaner all the way through both arms.
7. Now for the feet and hands – flatten and fold the remaining 4 small straw pieces and push them into the ends of the legs and arms.
8. Cut 5 slits in each to make fingers and toes.
9. For the ribs, thread the 3 small pieces of pipe cleaner through the 3 slits below the arms – bend into C shapes.
10. Push a large marshmallow down through the top pipe cleaners to the body. Cut off any excess pipe cleaner.
11. Draw on a skeleton face. A black Sharpie works best.

The Science

This fun and workable model of the human skeleton is a good way to introduce your child to their joints. It also demonstrates the form and function of the spine.

This activity is brought to you by BGSU Firelands

BGSU[®] Firelands

firelands.bgsu.edu