

Curriculum Area	Science	Activity Type	Practical
Suitable for	KS 1, 2 & 3	Activity Number	BB03
Activity Name	Jelly Brain		

Learning Outcome:

To understand what the brain looks and feels like, how delicate it is, and how easily it could get damaged.

Materials Required:

- 2 packs of blackcurrant jelly
- Tin of condensed milk
- $\frac{1}{2}$ pack of part-cooked spaghetti (optional !)
- Aluminum foil
- Large plastic bowl

Instructions:

This activity could be given to children to try at home then bring back to class. Alternatively, it would make an interesting demonstration or 'join in' activity in class/group.

Make the Mould

- Shape the tinfoil into a rough brain shape and put it into your mixing bowl
- Arrange some part-cooked spaghetti in the base and sides of the mould (this will give the jelly a wrinkly look, just like the appearance of the cerebral cortex, the outer part of the brain)

Make the Jelly

- Make the jelly according to the instructions on the packet, but replace four tablespoons of water with four tablespoons of condensed milk (this will hopefully give the jelly an opaque, grey brain colour)
- Put the jelly into the fridge to set.
- Once set remove from the mould and discard the spaghetti strands.

The finished jelly brain will roughly resemble the texture and colour of a human brain.

Additional discussion:

1. The brain is very squidgy - if it was knocked what do you think would happen?
2. What can we do to protect the brain from getting damaged? (Link to activity BB05 Shake up Your Brain, BB014 Design a Helmet, BB015 Head Protection)