Curriculum Area	Science	Activity Type	Practical
Suitable for	KS 2&3	Activity Number	BB04
Activity Name	**Brain Connections**		

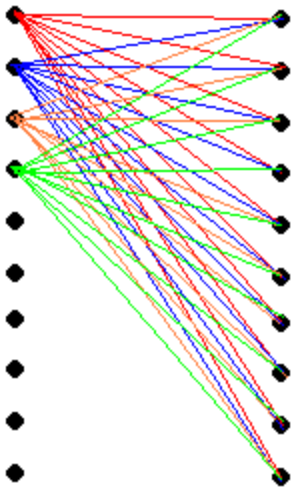

Diagram above and activity courtesy of Dr Eric H .Chudler - University of Washington, USA

Learning Outcome:

To illustrate the complexity of the connections of the brain

Materials Required:

- Colored pencils or crayons
- Card with 10 dots on each side

Instructions:

Draw 10 dots on one side of a piece of paper and 10 dots on the opposite side of the paper as shown above.

Assume these dots represent neurons (brain cells), and assume that each neuron makes connections with the 10 dots on the other side of the paper. Then connect each dot on one side with the 10 dots on the other side. As you can see from the diagram above, it gets very complicated after a while. This example has only connected 4 of the "neurons".

Remember that this is quite a simplification. Each neuron (dot) may actually make *thousands* of connections with other neurons. If you tried this your paper would be really messy!!

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Additional discussion:

1. What would happen if one of the dots was not there (the connections got damaged)?
2. How could this affect the way you think and feel and learn about new things?
3. How would it affect you trying to do ordinary things, like getting ready for school?
4. If you knew someone who had injured the connections in their brain, what ways could you help them?