

## UNIT 4 - SKELETAL SYSTEM

### Activity: Cervical Vertebrae

#### **Objectives:**

Students will demonstrate knowledge of the cervical vertebrae through the use of diagrams and models. The function of the cervical vertebrae will be demonstrated and students will understand how easily damage may occur to the cervical vertebrae.

Discuss the Injury of Christopher Reeve

Ask how and why he was hurt.

Why did he need breathing supplemented?

Explain why he could not breathe.

#### **Materials:**

- rice cakes - bones
- marshmallows - discs
- straws - spine
- string or yarn - nerves
- needles - used to thread the nerves

#### **Procedure:**

1. Drop several drops of water in the middle of the rice cake.
2. Rice cakes will become soft in the center.
3. Put the straw through rice cake, marshmallow, rice cake, marshmallow, alternating until the desired number are lined up.
4. Thread needle with thread or yarn, and "stitch" through marshmallow near the upper rice cake with a single thread. Do this for each marshmallow. (You may need to wipe the needle in between use.

#### **Strategy:**

To simulate Christopher Reeve's accident, learners will collapse the "vertebrae" by bringing hands together with force, keeping the "spine" between middle and ring fingers, close to the palms.

#### **Assessment:**

The students will work in cooperative learning groups. Students will participate in discussion and construct their own cervical vertebrae.