

Crafting Bacteria from Drink Straws

Bacteria - basic shapes.

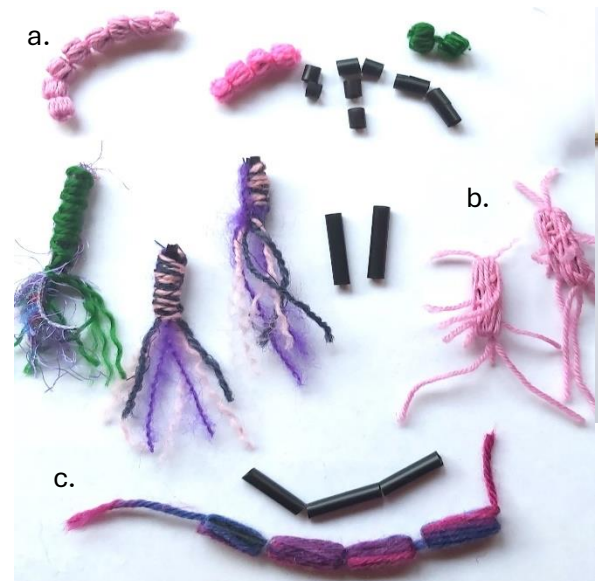
- (a) Cocci – spherical, often in pairs, bunches, or chains.
- (b) Rods – cylindrical, may be single, branched, or in chains, and
- (c) Rods often have tails & hair-like extensions.

Materials:

Paper straws

Small amounts of 4-8ply yarn
(avoid white pure black and dark colours.)

Darning needle Scissors



Method for a, b, and c

1. Cut straw through at desired lengths.
2. Thread needle with 0.5m of yarn.
3. Push needle through one segment of straw then loop back from top to bottom around the outside, tie a knot before continuing



4. Working from right to left, repeat step 3, pulling each new loop through firmly until the segment is covered.



5. For chains of cocci (a) or bacilli (c), continue adding more segments until your yarn runs out. For a longer chain add in more yarn, leaving a long tail at



6. (c only) To end off a single bacterium, weave the needle through the strands on the outside from bottom to top in a diagonal pattern until secure, end off.

If desired, attach extra single threads to the cell body to represent the small extensions known as pili, and leave tails at the end to represent flagella.

Illustration uses 4ply yarn.



If using 'fluffy' yarn or alternate colour for flagella on single bacteria, before starting with main yarn, tie in and secure one round of highlight yarn, then continue from step 4 as above.

Alternately, sew the alternate yarn to the complete bacteria or attach with sewing thread.

