

# Synapsing with Gaza through neuroscience, stories and art

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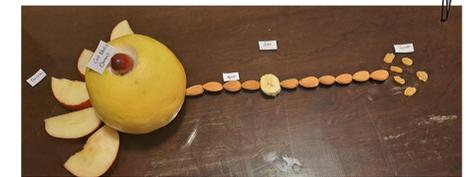


Nonprofit nwnoggin.org organizes collaboration around interdisciplinary neuroscience, going places to explore brains, hear stories, make art and see where research discoveries can contribute. There are extraordinary people everywhere, many facing unthinkable challenges and yet enthused and energized by learning, teaching, making and experiencing art, exploring brains and connecting with people across the world.

In 2025, Noggin collaborated with Neurochem Lab, a volunteer project that provides free neuroscience programs for K-12 students at the British International School (BIS) in Gaza through Zoom. Together we introduced our found object brain cell project, where students, many joining from cellphones in Gaza, crafted beautiful neurons from materials available to them, including local plants, food items and cardboard relief boxes.



We spent three mornings with more than 25 curious young people from the elementary and middle school levels at BIS, who are either in Gaza or are refugees in Egypt, and whose school buildings were destroyed by **Israeli bombing**. Several classmates were killed, and their many, many questions were compelling, including how do I stop racing thoughts before bed, and why does music help with trauma.



We made three visits in 2025, the first to meet the students and present an introduction to the brain, and the second to discuss the found object brain cell project. For the third visit, we simulated a roundtable where each student introduced themselves, and talked about their own brain cell (the material used and their inspiration). After the roundtable, our volunteers, who are graduate and undergraduate students in neuroscience, discussed the relevant brain research, and everyone enjoyed the neurons and the opportunity to make and present their art.

From BIS Gaza: "This incredible collaboration brought together scientists, students, and educators across continents to explore the fascinating world of the brain. It was a celebration of curiosity, connection, and the boundless potential of science education, even in the face of adversity." Sharing stories, experiences and creativity is a powerful way to build community **during a time when Palestinian voices are actively suppressed.**

Sections in red were censored by SFN



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Neurochem Lab