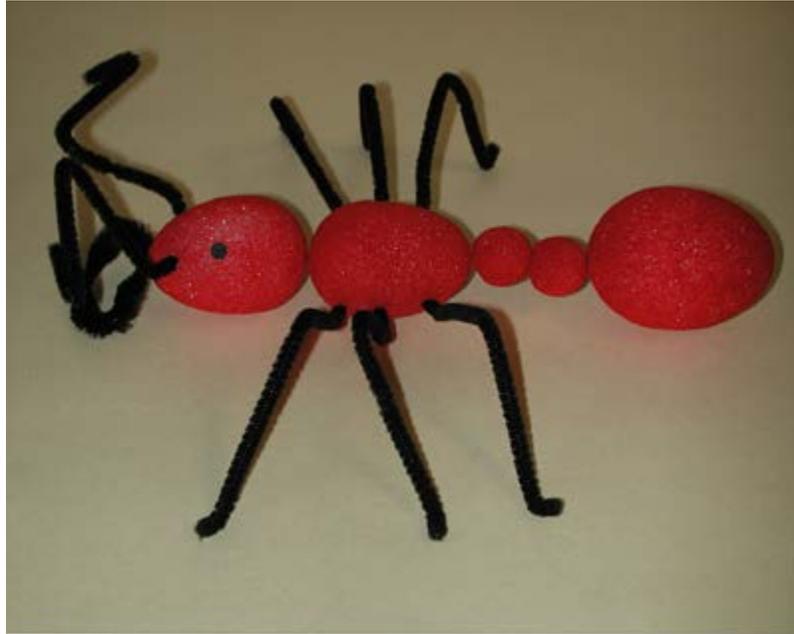


Building a Red Imported Fire Ant Model From Styrofoam and Pipe Cleaners

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Building a Red Imported Fire Ant Model

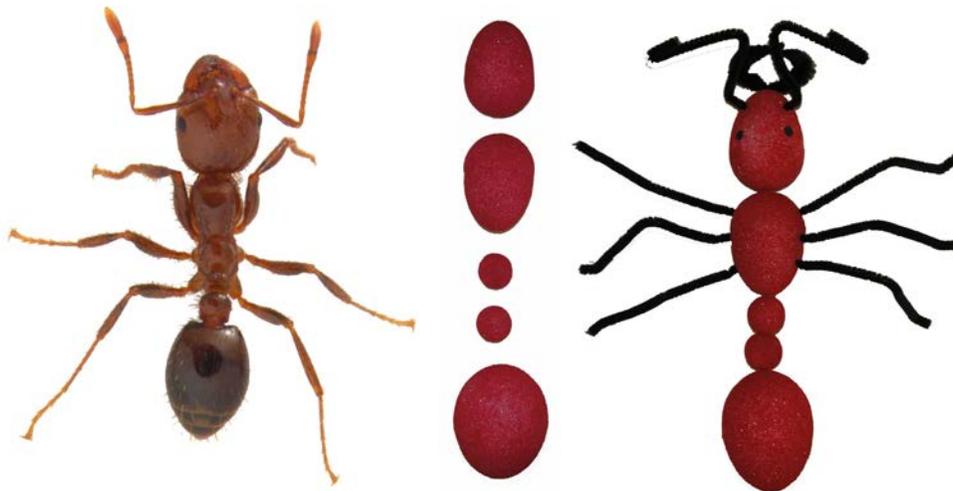
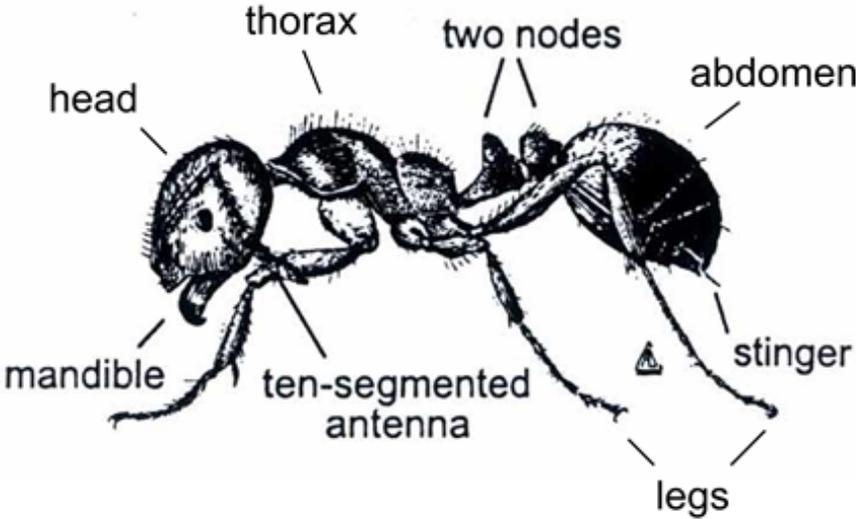


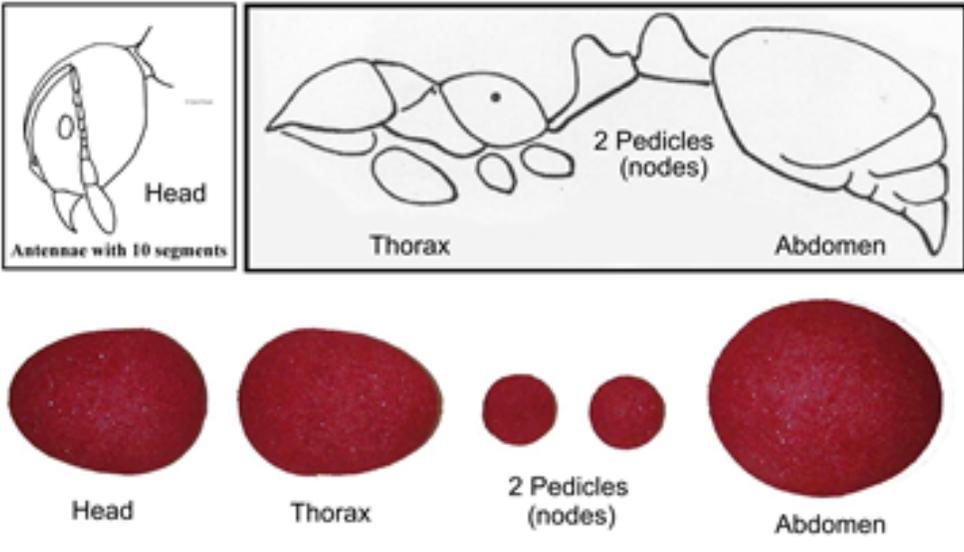
Image by: Matt Yoder, TAMU (R. Wharton Lab.)

Red Imported Fire Ant Anatomy



<http://marineecology.wcp.muohio.edu/antsite/antpics/rifadraw.jpg>

Red Imported Fire Ant Anatomy



Materials from a hobby supply store to make 100 fire ant models

Description

(Supply information from local Hobby Lobby Crafts store)

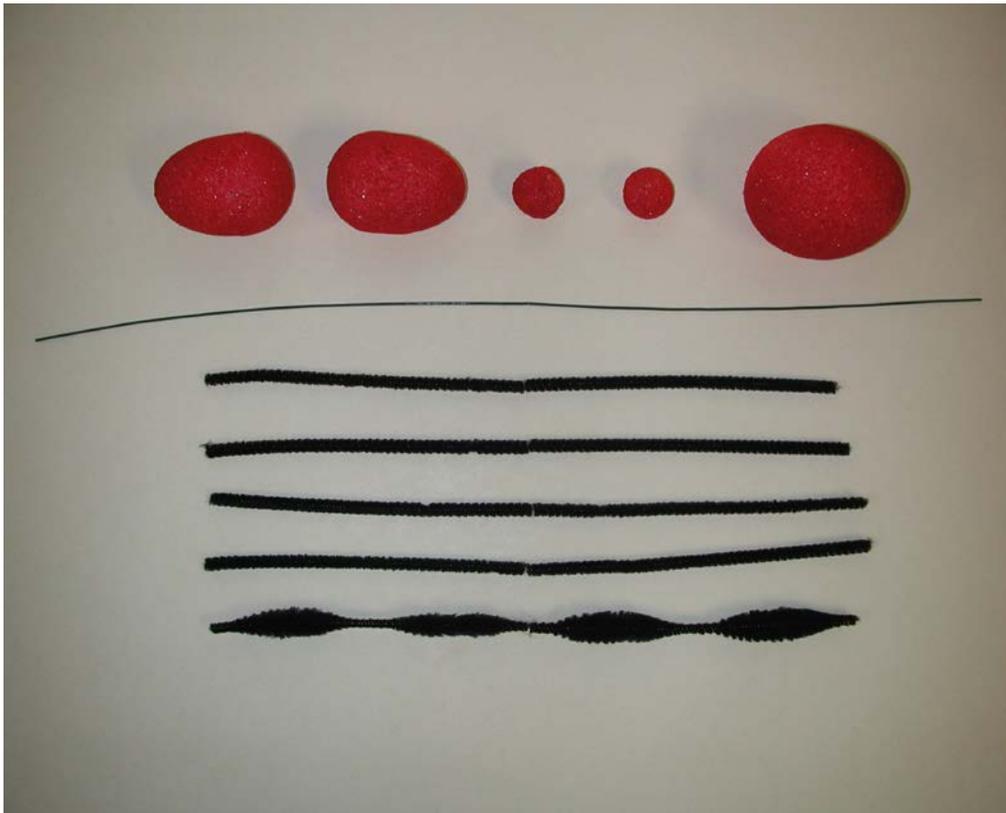
quantity

1 13/16 x 2 7/16 small egg UPC Code 46501 21280	200
2 5/16 x 3 1/16 medium egg UPC Code 46501 21300	100
1" balls UPC Code 46501 15500	200
Folk Art #437 lipstick red acrylic paint 2oz bottle	6 bottles ¹
20 gauge floral wire	100
Black 12" chenille pipe cleaners	400 +
Black 12" bump chenille pipe cleaners	200 +

¹ Dilute 1 part paint: 3 parts water, then dip Styrofoam pieces into mixture.
example: 1, 2 oz. bottle of paint to 6 oz. of water, for a total of 8 oz.

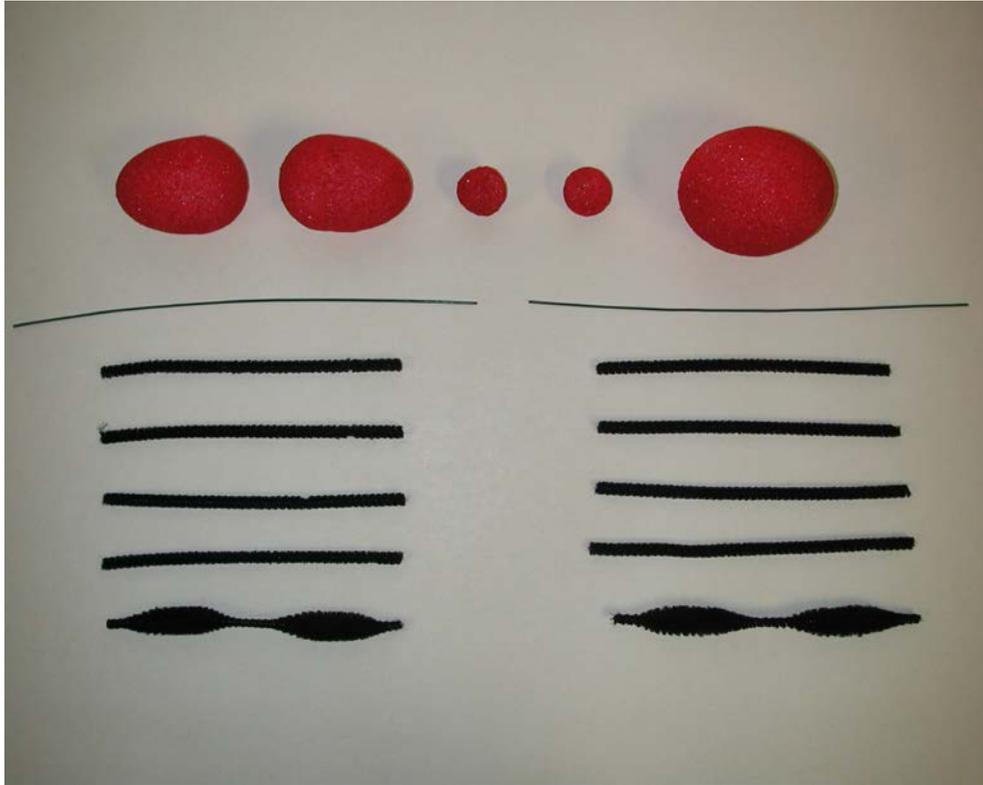
Materials to be prepared

Styrofoam eggs and 1" Styrofoam balls
Floral wire
Chenille pipe cleaners
Bump chenille pipe cleaners

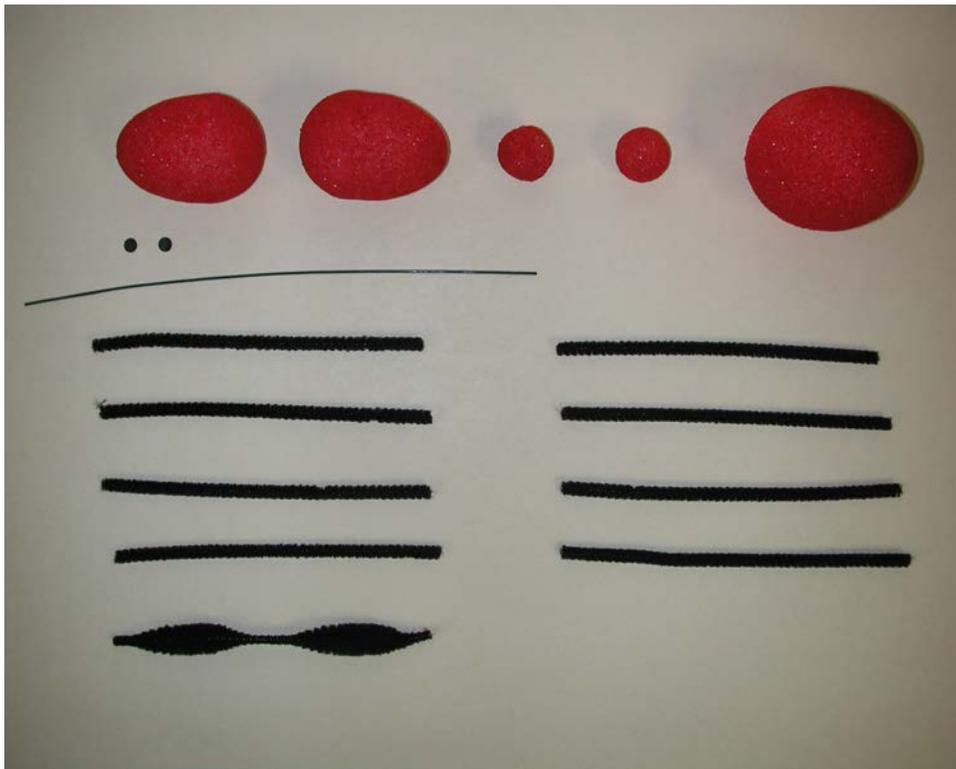


Paint all Styrofoam balls with *diluted red acrylic paint* set aside to dry. Plan for several hours to dry or you may want to paint several days ahead of time.

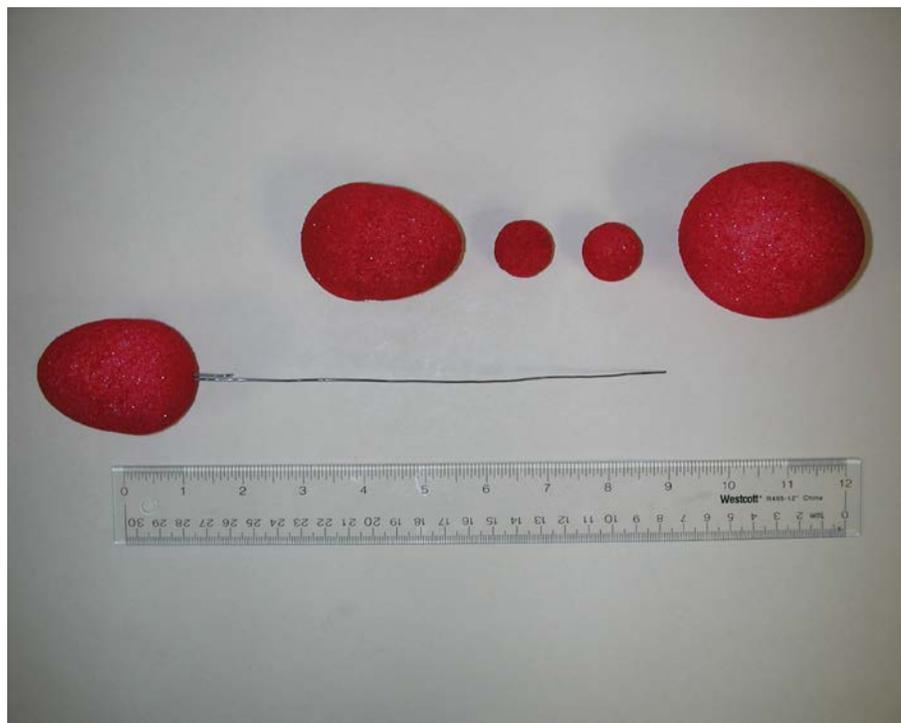
Preparation of materials, cut floral wire and pipe cleaners in half. Set extra aside for other ants.



Material prepared and ready to make into fire ant model.



Take half section of floral wire, place loop on end and force into base of small Styrofoam egg.

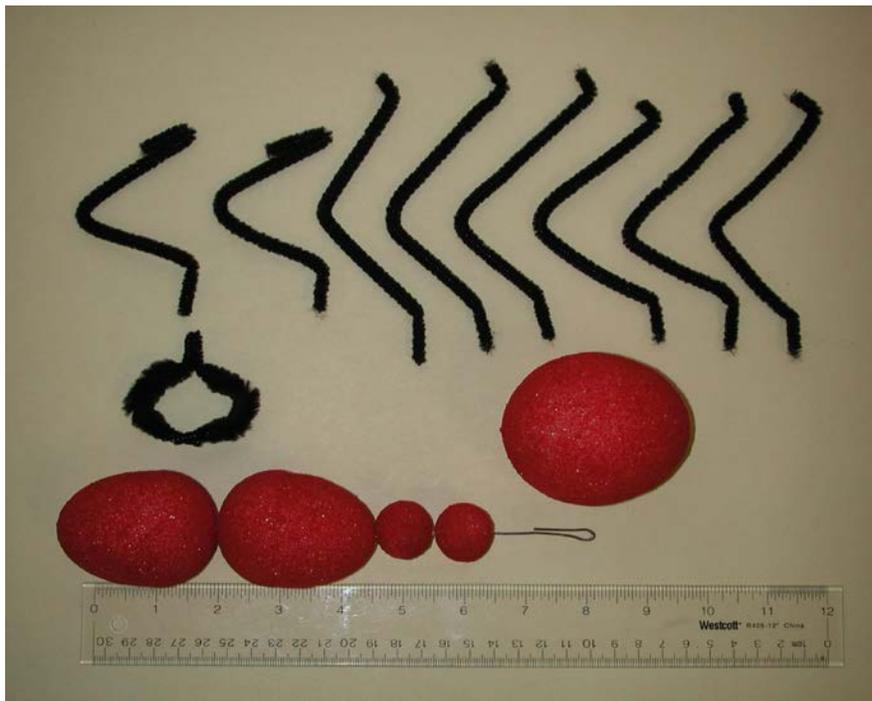
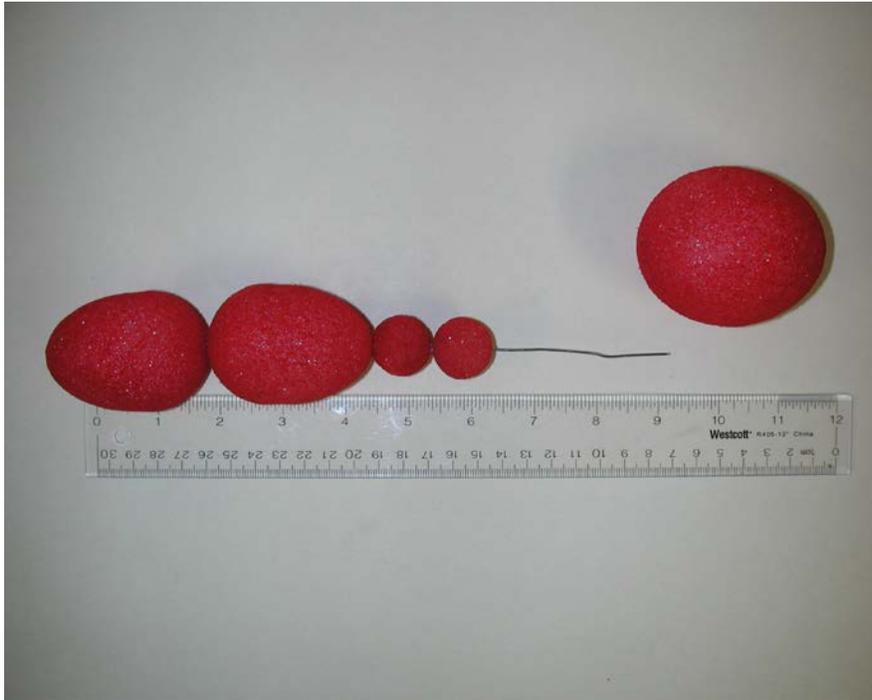


CAUTION: The floral wire is stiff and could pose a "poking" hazard while pushing through the Styrofoam eggs. Monitor the use of the floral wire closely. The instructor may want to loop the wire as shown in the above images before distributing to students.

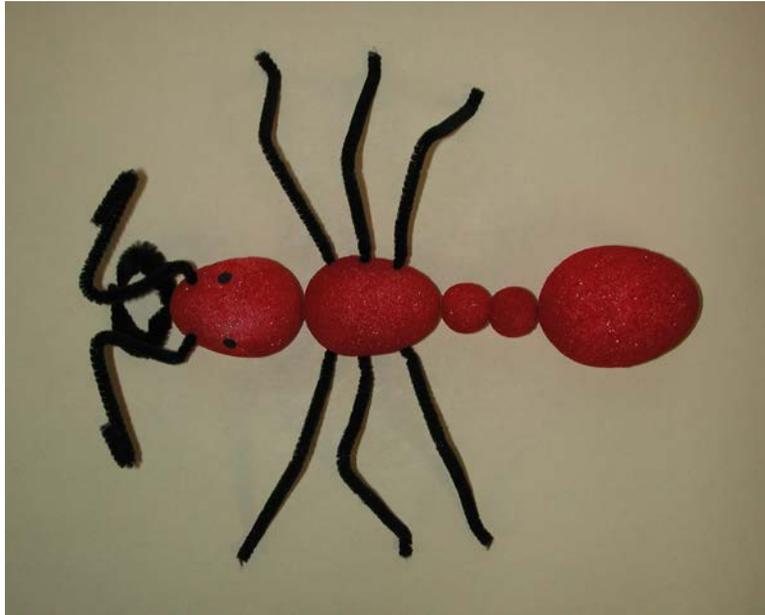
Run second egg, base end first onto floral wire.

Do the same with two 1" small Styrofoam ball.

Place another loop in end of floral wire and run medium Styrofoam egg, base first onto floral wire.



Take six, 6" lengths of chenille pipe cleaners and evenly place three on each side of second small Styrofoam egg and push in. The pipe cleaners will go into the Styrofoam eggs much easier if left straight and bends only made after they are in the egg. Now place bends to represent legs.



Take two, 6" lengths of chenille pipe cleaners and evenly place close to the tip and push into egg to represent the antennae. Place appropriate bends in them,

Take one, 6" length of the bump chenille pipe cleaner, bend in center, and push center bend in just below tip of first small egg to represent mouth parts.

Black dots can be made with a black marker, black sticky dots, or glue small doll eyes midway of first small egg to represent eyes. The use of a black "magic marker" or "Sharpie" is easiest.

