FINISHED SIZE:
Approximately 14 inches long and 5 inches wide at center

YARN:
I used Tahki Tweed in the sample on the left. You could use any worsted to get a radiolarian of approximately this size, or experiment with different sizes and colors for a varied model. You need approximately 1 oz or 55 yards of yarn.

NEEDLES AND NOTIONS:
US Size 7 Double Point Needles
Darning Needle for weaving in ends
Locking markers
Approximately 2-4 oz wool roving or polyfill for stuffing

GAUGE:
17 sts and 26 rows in 4 inches. Gauge is not essential in this project unless you are set on exact size of stuffed animal. You should choose a needle size 1-2 sizes smaller than suggested on ball band so the stuffing stays put.

SKILLS NEEDED:
Intermediate level. Knitting in the round on double point needles.

GLOSSARY:
• P = Purl
• PFB = Purl front and back of same stitch to increase
• P2Tog = Purl 2 together to decrease
• MB = Make bobble as follows: Knit into front, then back, then front of the same stitch. Turn. Purl those same three stitches. Turn. Knit 3 stitches. Turn. Purl three stitches. Turn. Knit those three stitches, then pass the first two individually over the last. You should not have increased any stitches, but you should have a bobble.
If you need more help on this stitch, you can try You Tube: Wool and the Gang How to Knit a Bobble Stitch for a similar style, or another style of bobble.
**Instructions:**

**Start the first spine:**
Cast on 3 stitches on double point size 7 needles or size needed to get your gauge.
Divide your stitches onto 3 needles (this will be tricky but it will get easier). Join to work in the round.
Round 1: PFB on each stitch (6 stitches total). Place a marker to indicate the beginning of the round.
Round 2: Purl.
Round 3: Increase row: *P1, PFB* Repeat 3 times. (9 stitches total)
Purl in the round until your spine (the needlelike projection in a Radiolarian) is about 3.5 inches. Thread the tail onto a darning needle and thread through end to close. Draw end to inside.
Take a small pinch of stuffing (olive sized) and stuff it down into the tip of the spine with a spare knitting needle. Continue to add bits of stuffing until the tube holds its shape.
Purl until the spine is approximately 4.25 inches from the tip.

**Next round: Start the central capsule or shell:**
Round 1: Increase round: *P1, PFB, P1* Repeat **3 times.** (12 sts total)
2: Purl.
3: Increase round: *P1, PFB, P1, PFB* Repeat **3 times.** (18 sts total)
4: Purl.
5: *P1, MB, P2, MB, P1* Repeat **3 times.
6: Purl.
7: Increase round. *P1, PFB, P2, PFB, P1* (24 stitches total, 8 per needle)
8. Needle 1: MB, P2, MB, P2, MB, P1, Needle 2: P2, MB, P3, MB, P1,
Needle 3: P2, MB, P3, MB, P1
10. Increase round: *PFB, P2, PFB, P2, PFB, P* Repeat **3 times.
(33 stitches total, 11 per needle)
14. Needle 1: P3, MB, P5, MB, P1, Needle 2: P4, MB, P4, MB, P1,
Needle 3:P4, MB, P4, MB, P1
Continue stuffing as you go.
17. *P1, MB, P5, MB, P3* Repeat **3 times.
18. Purl.
19. Decrease round: *P2, P2Tog, P2, P2 Tog, P1, P2Tog* Repeat **3 times.
(24 stitches remain).
20. *MB, P2, MB, P4* Repeat **3 times.
22. Decrease round: *P1, P2Tog, P1, P2Tog,P2* Repeat **3 times.
(18 stitches remain)
23. *P1, MB, P2, MB, P1
25. Decrease round: *P1, P2Tog, P1, P2Tog* Repeat *3 times. (12 sts)
27. Decrease round: *P1, P2Tog, P1* Repeat **3 times. (9 sts)
Stuff remainder of capsule.

**Knit remaining spine:**
Purl in the round until tube is 3 3/4” long.
Next round: Decrease round: *P1, P2Tog* Repeat **3x.** (6 sts)

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