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**Findley Oaks STEM Connect**

**2nd Grade Design Brief**

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| **Month**  **November** | **Challenge**  Keep a Cube Zoom | **Unit**  Properties of Matter |

**Standard:**

Students should follow the **Engineering Design Process.**

**Background/Problem:**  **Have you ever been in a room that was too hot or too cold? Imagine that you could control the temperature so that it’s just right for you. Engineers are designing homes for the future called “smart homes”. When you enter a room, sensors will detect who you are. Then a computer will make the room temperature warmer or colder, depending on what you like. Engineers like you could design new kinds of “smart homes”. These same engineers are trying to keep on ice cube from melting too quickly. NASA would like you to help them design a package to keep an ice cube from melting for 30 minutes. Can you help?**

**Design Challenge:** Your challenge is to create/design a package to keep an ice cube from melting for 30 minutes out of the materials provided.

**Criteria:**

Your package must:

* be able to keep a cube from melting for 30 minutes.
* must be placed/put inside a box. Can be wrapped up/ or the box can be covered. (Think about what makes an ice cube melt before attempting your design).

**Constraints:** You can only use the materials provided. Everyone in your group needs to participate. A second ice cube should be placed on a paper plate. This is your “control” cube. Do not make any changes to this cube.

**Materials: (groups of 2, 3, or 4)) (teacher discretion)**

2 ice cubes

cardboard box

wax paper

masking tape

newspaper

aluminum foil

rubber bands

paper plates

**Tools:**

Scissors

Hole punch

Timers

Paper (For design planning)

Pencils

\*\*\*After the build - Set the timer and wait 30 minutes. Compare the ice cube in your Keep-a-cube box to the ice cube on the plate. Which ice cube is bigger? Why?

How can you change the container so the ice cube melts more slowly? What happens if you use a smaller box? Or, what happens if you use different materials, like foam packing peanuts or cotton ball? Choose one thing to change (that’s the variable), and make a prediction. Then test it again.

**Engineering Scoop:** Engineers design ways to solve problems. In this activity you designed a way to keep an ice cube from melting for 30 minutes. What makes ice melt? Heat! The air around the ice cube is warmer that the ice. So you need to keep the warm air away from the ice cube. To do this, you use insulation, a material that slows heat energy from passing through it. When this was tried on ZOOM, Caroline and Frances wrapped their ice cube in wax paper and sealed the box to keep warm air out. Eric and Rachel covered their box with aluminum foil to keep the warm air out. How did you keep your ice cube from melting?

**Reference:**

pbskids.org/zoom

This lesson was taken from an pbskids online STEM lesson.



