

The Daily STEM

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STEM in the News

Every January, thousands of businesses show off their new inventions at CES, the Consumer Electronics Show. This year, because of the pandemic, the show will take place virtually Jan 11-14. Companies will show off their newest inventions and ideas, hoping that people will be excited to buy their products. What are some of the top innovations that will be revealed? Many companies are creating products to help cope with COVID. Smart air purifiers, hi-tech masks, and UV lights that kill germs are sure to get lots of attention. Other companies will show off new computers and displays that help people work and learn better from home. And of course, car companies will demonstrate new features that make cars a lot more futuristic. Learn more about this year's CES: cnet.co/2LbBluc



STEM + Screens

One of the new innovations at CES that will be talked a lot about is new transparent screens from LG. Imagine sitting in a restaurant, and instead of a clear piece of plastic separating tables, there is a clear screen that displays menu items. Or what if you were riding on a bus or subway, and the windows had live info of your progress on the route, or details about the local sites. LG has created a clear screen that could be used anywhere where a normal clear glass is used. Where else would clear screen displays be useful? Learn more: cnet.co/3nKrCbg



STEM Challenge

Do you have a great idea for an invention? Maybe it's something we've never seen before, or maybe it's just a way to improve an existing product. Thomas Edison, a famous inventor, said "To invent, you need a good imagination and a pile of junk."

Think of a problem to solve (the best inventions solve some sort of problem or fill a need). Find a piece of paper, sketch some ideas, and try to invent a solution to a problem. Some people call the steps of inventing the "Engineering Design Process." Learn more about the design process and maybe you'll be the next great inventor: bit.ly/3q58ypO



STEM + Refrigerators

Did you ever think about how many ways your refrigerator could be improved? LG created a fridge that you can open by voice command. Less touching of the handle means less germs. They also built a UV light sanitizer into the water dispenser. What other innovations would you make for your fridge?

Learn more: cnet.co/3sejeUQ



The Puzzle

In 1 hour, 1 person can dig a hole 2 meters long, 2 meters wide, and 2 meters deep. How long would it take that person to dig a hole 4 meters long, 4 meters wide, and 4 meters deep (assuming they dig at the same speed)?

Last issue's answer: We counted 18 small triangles (let us know if you found more than 18)

Mystery Photos

What's under the microscope?
(answer in next issue)

*Last issue's answer:
Candy (Jolly Rancher),
sandpaper, & fiberglass stake*

