

The Daily STEM

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STEM in the News

Have you ever had a scrape and had to wait for it to heal under a bandage? Erica Pensini, an engineer in Canada, developed a gel that could help your cuts heal faster. When your

body has an injury, affected cells send small electrical signals to let your body know it needs healing. This gel,

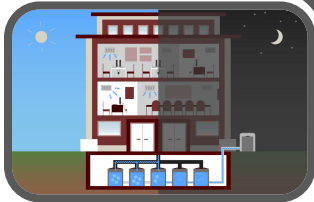


which was created by accident, also sends electrical signals when squeezed or stretched. That means the gel is piezoelectric. Your skin, bones, and fingernails are piezoelectric. Even robots are being designed with synthetic skin that can sense using piezoelectric signals. Currently the researchers are testing ways to add the gel to bandages, and also hope it could create energy to power items just by movement! What would you use it for? **Learn more:** bit.ly/4sKfY1Y

More STEM News

Summer is coming, and with it comes hot and sweaty days.

Some researchers are looking at the idea of “ice batteries” to help with the cost of cooling buildings. During the hotter daytime, energy is more expensive and in higher demand. But at night, it’s cooler and less electricity is being used. So large amounts of ice is made at night, then used to cool buildings during the day. What other simple ideas like ice batteries could save money and energy? **Learn more:** bit.ly/4rHKrgp



STEM Career: Training Officer

Did you ever wonder how astronauts prepare for all of the things that could go wrong in space? Or how do they know what to learn to do their research and exploration?

A **Training Officer** works with everyone involved in a space mission to make sure the astronauts are well prepared for anything. Jacki Mahaffey is the Chief Training Officer for the Artemis II mission that



will travel around the moon. She and her team began preparing years before the crew started training in 2023. They put the four astronauts into specialized simulators to practice flying and living in space. They put them underwater to practice what happens if there’s a problem at splashdown. They try to think of as many issues that could happen, then make sure every member of the crew can handle the pressure. “I didn’t start out wanting to be a trainer — I studied engineering because I loved physics and math,” she said. Could you train astronauts? **Learn more:** bit.ly/4dBjE1G, or **watch:** bit.ly/3PSJHre and be sure to follow the **Artemis blog:** bit.ly/4uK2XY0

The Puzzle

Suppose you buy a car for \$1000, then sell it for \$1500, then buy it back for \$2000, then sell it again for \$2500.

Did you make any profit, and if so, how much?

Suppose you’re lost in the woods in a snowstorm, but find an abandoned cabin with a newspaper, a fireplace, some kindling, and a candle. What should you light first?

Decode the answers using $z=a$, $y=b$, $x=c$, $w=d$:

Bvh, lmv gslfhz mw wloozih. A n z g x s.

Mystery Photos

Can you identify the mystery items under the Microscope?

Decode the answers using $z=a$, $y=b$, $x=c$, $w=d$:

uvog

hgzkovh

xrixfrg ylziv

