

Gloves & Legos

Overview: Students practice the challenges of working in space with multiple layers of hand protection.

Reference: Astronaut's gloves are made of several layers of protective materials. Each astronaut has a pair of gloves custom made using laser scans of his or her hands. The finished gloves have rib-like ridges on the finger joints and a complex pattern of diamonds and squares on the palms.

Activity Timeline: 8:00 minutes per rotation. 6 rotations. Group sizes between 8 and 13.

Introduction: Explain the challenges of working on the moon. Have the students imagine they are astronauts working on the moon.

Procedure:

- 1) Spread out the assorted Legos on the table.
- 2) Put multiple layers of gloves on each student.
- 3) Have students attempt to build a Lego structure.

Conclusion: Ask questions to reinforce learning.

Notes: Getting the multiple layers of gloves on the kid's hands has proven to be a challenge. Try to have one volunteer for each student to help put the gloves on. We want the gloves to be on quickly enough to give them time to perform the activity.