

The STEM Explanation:

Part of the fun in this experiment is that everyone could do it a little differently, yet still accomplish the same goal! If one method doesn't work to free your Lego, there are more ways to try. For instance, you can use water or salt to help the ice melt. This is because they impact the melting point, or the temperature that ice changes to water, of the ice. When you put water with a higher temperature next to ice, molecules from the ice start to move faster, or melt, at a higher rate. Salt will help melt the ice because the salt molecules disrupt the equilibrium of the ice molecules and break them apart. If your ice still isn't melting fast enough to rescue your Lego, you can use some tools to physically break up the ice into chunks. This increases the surface area of the ice exposed, thus allowing more of it to melt.

Career Connection:

An *archeologist* is a scientist who studies past peoples and cultures by excavating and examining material remains. These remains can be as simple as an arrowhead or as complex as the ruins of a prehistoric village. Archeologists study ancient cultures as well as recent historic occupations. Archeologists are interested in animal bones, plant remains, and certain stone materials when these things occur at archeological sites and have a clear relationship to human activity.

Resources:

- <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/preserve/archeology/what-does-archeologist-do>
- <http://lemonlimeadventures.com/lego-science-ice-excavation-experiment/>

31 Days of STEM FUN!

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