



## Fantastic Elastic

Discover the limits of elasticity and what it would mean if being super-stretchy was your superpower.

### Collect:

- 3 rubber bands
- Heat-safe bowl or mug
- Tongs

### Procedures:

1. Place one rubber band in a freezer overnight.
2. The next day, fill a heat-safe bowl or mug with hot water. Use the hottest water from the tap or microwave some water for about two minutes.
3. Place another rubber band in the hot water and let it sit for five minutes. Keep a third rubber band at room temperature.
4. Remove the rubber band from the freezer and use tongs to pull the rubber band out of the hot water.
5. Try stretching each rubber band as far as it will go. Which rubber band is easiest to stretch? How long does it take for each rubber band to return to its regular size? How far do the bands stretch before they break?

### Discover:

Elasticity is a property that refers to how much or how easily a material is able to go back to its original shape after being stretched or squeezed, but some materials behave differently at different temperatures.

Based on the results of your experiment, would you rather be a super-stretchy superhero on a freezing cold day or sunny hot day?

**Let's science**  /marylandsciencecenter  /mdsciencecenter  /mdsciencecenter

The Maryland Science Center at Baltimore's Inner Harbor | 601 Light Street Baltimore MD | [www.marylandsciencecenter.org](http://www.marylandsciencecenter.org)