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Stretch!: Temperature's Effect on a Rubber Band

The purpose of this project was to find out what would happen to a rubber band when it is in different temperatures. The hypothesis made at the beginning of this experiment stated that the rubber bands in the boiled water would stretch farther than the rest of the rubber bands.

The experiment involved a Styrofoam sheet labeled with inches 1-12. Push pins were put at each inch mark. Three trials were performed for each rubber band. Three rubber bands were in boiled water, three rubber bands were put in ice water, and three more rubber bands were just put on a table. The rubber bands were stretched one at a time until there were three trials for each type of rubber band.

The data collected did not support the original hypothesis. The rubber bands that were in boiled water didn't stretch very far. The rubber bands in the ice water stretched farther than the other rubber bands. The rubber bands in the boiled water stretched for an average of 4 inches. The rubber bands in the ice water averaged 10.6 inches.

These findings lead to believe that rubber bands stretch farther when they are in colder temperatures. Rubber expands at colder temperatures, and other materials expand at hotter temperatures.