

Creating Nanomaterials



Summary

“Creating Nanomaterials” is an interactive, multimedia component of the *Intro to Nanotechnology* exhibit package that demonstrates how scientists are using the ability of molecules to self-assemble to create consumer goods with surprising properties.

Self-Assembly

Self-Assembly is an interactive where visitors place and observe “molecules” on an air hockey table. When the air hockey table is activated, the “molecules” hover and assemble into patterns all by themselves—just like molecules in nanomaterials. The copy panel and side monitors explain how self-assembly is being used to create novel materials in real-world applications.

This exhibit component consists of one copy panel, the air hockey Self-Assembly interactive, and a flat-screen monitor slideshow that can be updated to keep the exhibit content current and relevant. Like all of the exhibit components in the *Intro* package, headphone listening stations with both English and Spanish audio description labels are included. These audio labels serve two functions—to explain the “Big Idea” content of the exhibit and to provide illustrative descriptions of the interactive experience.

Learning Goal

- Scientists are figuring out how to create and manipulate materials at the nanoscale through self-assembly.

Exhibit Details

Audience: All ages

Exhibit Format: Stand-Alone Exhibit Component
Part of *Introduction to Nanotechnology* package

Exhibit Dimensions: 65 ½”w x 32 ½”d x 78”h

