



[▶ Link to Video](#)

DIY ACTIVITY

OPPOSABLE THUMB CHALLENGE GRADES K-2

SUMMARY

- Challenge yourself to complete simple tasks without thumbs!
- Time Required: 15 minutes
- Difficulty: Easy
- Cost: \$0-5

PROCEDURE

 **AS A CLASS, WATCH THE *GENERATION GENIUS* EXTERNAL ANIMAL PARTS VIDEO.**

1. Carefully tape both thumbs to your index finger. Important: should not be tight.
2. Try to open a bag of chips.
3. Try to open a water bottle.
4. Try to stack 6 cups into a pyramid.
5. Try to cut a piece of paper with scissors.
6. Try to tie a shoelace as fast as you can.

WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?

Humans and primates (monkeys, apes and gorillas) have what are called “opposable thumbs” which makes doing certain tasks much easier. Our thumbs are attached to a different part of our hand than our other fingers, and the thumb can move separately. This challenge probably helped you appreciate how useful our opposable thumbs are. They are an external part that helps humans survive.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Pair of scissors
- Roll of tape
- Bag of chips
- Water bottle
- Piece of paper
- 6 Plastic cups
- Shoe with a lace