

Uses of everyday materials

What I should already know

- Objects are things that you can touch or see.
- Objects are made from materials.
- Some materials that objects are made from. (e.g. glass, wood, plastic)
- Some words to describe materials. (e.g. shiny, soft, rough absorbent)
- Materials which are natural and which are man-made.

Investigate!

- Compare the uses of everyday materials in and around the school with materials found in other places (at home, the journey to school)
- Observe closely the uses of different materials, and record your observations.
- Distinguish between absorbent and waterproof materials and discuss what happens when water is placed on these materials.
- Consider why some properties of materials make them suitable or unsuitable for different uses.
- Investigate if some items can be made by more than one material (e.g. cutlery) and explain why.
- Investigate if some materials can be used to make more than one thing.

Key Vocabulary

absorbent	material that soaks up liquid easily
dull	a colour or light that is not bright
flexible	A material that can bend easily without breaking
man-made	things are created by people
natural	things that exist in nature and are not made by people
opaque	if an object or substance is opaque, you cannot see through it
properties	the qualities or features that belong to something and make it recognisable
suitable	something that is right for a particular purpose
transparent	if an object is transparent, you can see through it
waterproof	does not let water pass through it

Key knowledge

- The **property** of a material is something about it that we can measure, see or feel and helps us decide whether or not it is the best material.
- Materials are used for different purposes based on their **properties**.
- Wood: hard, **stiff**, strong, **opaque** and can be carved into any shape.
- Plastic: **waterproof**, strong and can be made to be **flexible** or stiff, smooth or rough.
- Paper: lightweight, flexible.
- Fabric: soft, flexible, hard wearing, can be stretchy, warm, **absorbent**.
- Glass: waterproof, transparent, hard, smooth.
- Metal: strong, hard, easy to wash.
- Cardboard; strong, light, stiff.
- Rubber: hard-wearing, elastic, flexible, strong.
- Some materials can be **recycled** or used again for a different purpose. Materials like plastic can be recycled.

Key questions

What are the properties of different materials?

Why would you use an absorbent material? Can you give examples of which materials are absorbent?

Materials



The properties of materials

