

Year Two

Uses of Everyday Materials



Key Learning

All objects are made of one or more materials that are chosen specifically because they have suitable properties for the task. For example, a water bottle is made of plastic because it is transparent, allowing you to see the drink inside, and waterproof so that it holds the water. When choosing what to make an object from, the properties needed are compared with the properties of the possible materials, identified through simple tests and classifying activities. A material can be suitable for different purposes and an object can be made of different materials.

Objects made of some materials can be changed in shape by bending, stretching, squashing and twisting. For example, clay can be shaped by squashing, stretching, rolling, pressing etc. when wet. This can be a property of the material or depend on how the material has been processed e.g. thickness.

Key vocabulary

Names of materials – wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, rock, paper, cardboard

Properties of materials – as for Year 1 plus opaque, transparent and translucent, reflective, non-reflective, flexible, rigid

Shape, push/pushing, pull/pulling, twist/twisting, squash/squashing, bend/bending, stretch/stretching

Common misconceptions

Some children may think:

- only fabrics are materials ,
- only building materials are materials,
- only writing materials are materials,
- the word rock describes an object rather than a material,
- solid is another word for hard.