Everyday Materials

Materials are what objects are made from. Examples of materials include glass, wood, fabric, plastic, stone and metal.

Materials are all around us, such as in the home, garden, school and park. They are important because we use materials to make the objects we use every day.



This vase is made from glass.



This table is made from wood.



This T-shirt is made from fabric.



This cutlery is made from metal.



This toy is made from plastic.



This statue is made from stone.

Natural materials

Natural materials come from the world around us, such as the ground, plants and animals.



wood



metal



cotton



wool



leather



stone



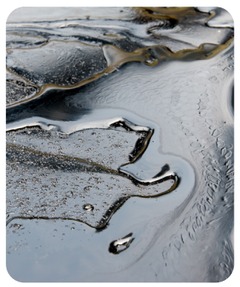
rubber



clay



silk



oil



water



sand

Human-made materials

Human-made materials are new materials people make from natural materials. Examples of human-made materials include glass, paper, plastic, brick, metal alloys, synthetic fabric, ceramic and concrete. Human-made materials look and feel different to the natural materials they are made from and can be used to make a range of objects.

Glass is made from sand.



sand



glass

Paper is made from wood.



wood



paper

Concrete is made from sand and stone.



sand

+



stone



concrete

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Properties of materials

A property is a quality that a material has. Materials can be described by their properties, such as hard, soft, stretchy, bendy, transparent and waterproof. Materials have different properties, which make them suitable for making different objects.



A paper kitchen towel is soft and absorbent.



A plastic toy is hard and smooth.



Rubber wellies are waterproof and bendy.



A ceramic mug is hard and waterproof.



A metal pan is smooth and shiny.



A cotton T-shirt is soft and stretchy.



A glass window is hard and transparent.

Comparing and grouping materials

Objects and materials can be compared and put into groups according to their similarities, differences or properties.

These objects have been put into a group. They are all similar because they are made from metal and are hard and shiny.

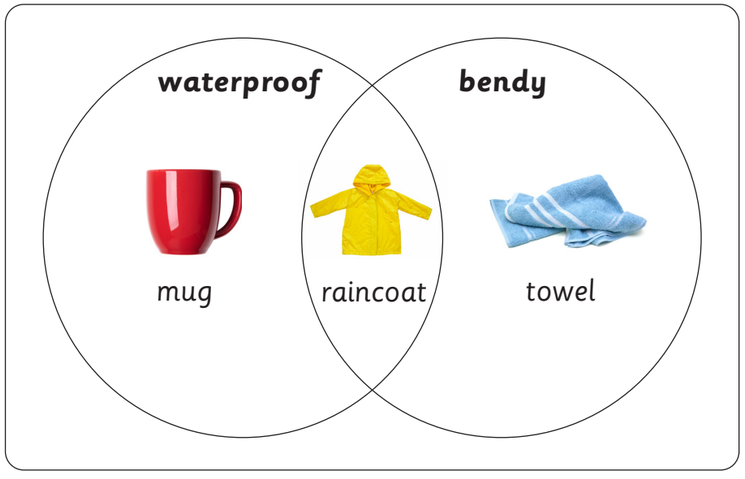


These objects have been put into a group. They are all similar because they are made from fabric and are soft and bendy.



Venn diagrams

A Venn diagram is a way of grouping information or objects using overlapping circles. It can be used to group objects according to their properties to find their similarities and differences.



This Venn diagram shows that the ceramic mug is waterproof but not bendy. The fabric towel is bendy but not waterproof. The plastic raincoat is waterproof and bendy.

Glossary

absorbent	A property of some materials. An absorbent material easily soaks up liquid.
ceramic	A human-made material made from clay. It is used to make cups and plates.
concrete	A human-made material made from sand and stone. It is used to make buildings and pavements.
human-made	Made by people.
natural	Found in nature.
synthetic fabric	A human-made fabric, sometimes made from oil.
transparent	A property of some materials. A transparent material can be seen through.

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