

Knowledge Organiser

Unit: About materials

Materials are tested a lot before being used to make something.

For clothing, cotton is grown on plants and silk starts life being made by a silkworm!

Most materials we buy can be recycled or re-used.



GR8! – 8 words and meanings to learn

Key Word	Meaning
1. magnet	A piece of metal material which is able to attract other metals.
2. metal	A substance, such as gold or tin, that is usually hard and has a shiny appearance.
3. wood	Trees are made of this, and it is used to make lots of things like furniture.
4. plastic	A man-made material which is made from oil and can be moulded into different shapes.
5. paper	Material used in the form of thin sheets.
6. man-made	A material made by humans.
7. natural	A material that can be made from living things.
8. recycle	Making something new from something that has been used before.

Some words to describe different materials

magnetic bendy soft
hard strong man-made
natural elastic brittle



Lesson 1 • Know everyday uses of magnets
Lesson 2 • Recognise a variety of widely used materials
Lesson 3 • Understand why materials are chosen for specific tasks
Lesson 4 • Understand that magnets only attract certain metals
Lesson 5 • Understand that magnets have a north and south pole
Lesson 6 • Know how to test materials for their strength; understand that some materials are natural, and some are man-made

Before and After...

Question 1: Which material can a table be made from?	Start of unit:	End of unit:
Wood		
Metal		
Plastic		
Paper		
Cardboard		

Question 2: Which material might your cereal bowl be made from?	Start of unit:	End of unit:
ceramic		
plastic		
metal		
brick		
fabric		
magnet		

Question 3: What objects are waterproof?	Start of unit:	End of unit:
raincoat		
umbrella		
sponge		
scarf		
towel		

Question 4: Which materials are absorbent?	Start of unit:	End of unit:
absorbent	sponge	
	ceramic	
	brick	
non-absorbent	towel	
	plastic	

Question 5: Which materials are transparent?	Start of unit:	End of unit:
transparent	glass	
	book	
opaque	clear plastic	
	brick	
	ceramic	