Y2 Uses of Materials

KS1 Y2 Science · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

Why are windows made of glass?

Step 1 · What does a window need to do?

Let light in, let us see out, keep rain and wind out

Step 2 · Which properties does that need?

See-through (transparent), waterproof and stiff

Step 3 · Which material has all of those?

Glass

Answer: Glass is see-through, waterproof and stiff — just right for a window

Check: First think about the job, then the properties it needs, then the material.

2. Now try one with the steps

Spoons can be made of metal, wood or plastic. Which is best for stirring hot soup?

Step 1 · Metal

Step 2 · Plastic

Step 3 · Wood

Answer:

3. Practice

Have a go at each one. There is space underneath to work it out.

1. Which material is best for a window: glass, wood or paper?

2. Which material are most house walls made from in the UK?

3. Name a material used to make spoons.

4. Why are books made of paper?

5. Why would a chocolate teapot be a bad idea?

6. Which property does a raincoat material need?

7. Why are saucepans made of metal?

8. Name 2 objects that can be made from wood.

9. Why is cardboard good for a parcel box but not for an umbrella?

10. Why are drinks bottles often plastic and not glass in a school lunchbox?

11. Why are garden paths made of rock or stone, not paper?

12. Ella counted 4 metal objects, 5 plastic objects and 3 wooden objects in her kitchen. How many objects is that?

13. What did Charles Macintosh's new material help to make?

14. A football is made of rubber and plastic, not wood. Why?

4. Before you hand it in

Thinking an object can only be made from one material.
Ask: which of these materials suits the job best?

Thinking a material can only have one use.
List a material's properties, then think of every job they would suit.

Choosing a material just because it is strong.
Think of ALL the properties the job needs.

Mixing up 'rock' and 'brick'.
Rock = natural. Brick = made by people.