Name & Surname: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Sorting Materials

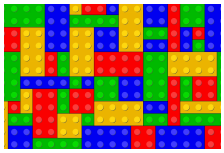
Describe, test, and sort like a scientist!

About 30 minutes Level ★★★☆☆

How Scientists Sort

An object is the thing itself, like a spoon. A **material** is what it is made of, like metal or wood.

- Every material has **properties** you can observe.
- Look at **color**. Feel if it is smooth or rough, hard or soft.
- Test if it bends. Then group things that are the same.



Key words

material: what something is made of

property: how a material looks or feels

texture: how something feels to touch

hardness: how something feels when you press or scratch it

flexible: bends easily without breaking

sort: put things into groups

Task A

Read the statement. Write if you agree. Use evidence from what you observed. Start with: I claim...

> All metal objects are hard and shiny.

My claim

I disagree. Not all metal is shiny because some old metal looks dull, but it is still hard. My question is: Can metal feel rough too?

Support: what I see or know

A question I still have

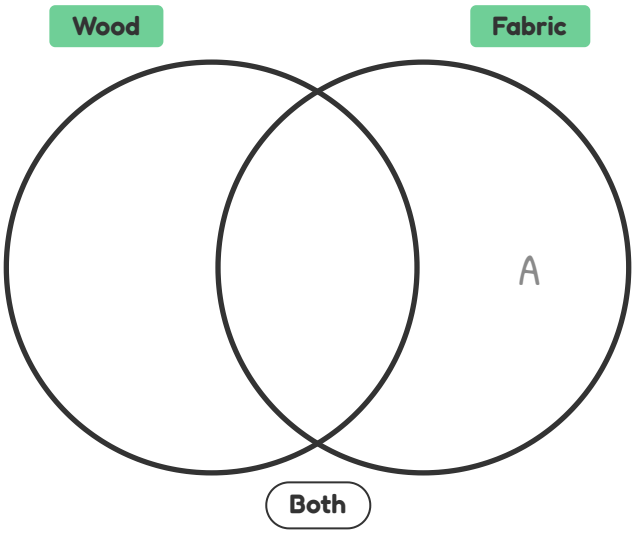
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Wood or Fabric

Compare two materials by what you can observe.

↑↓ Task B Example done for you /5

Sort each clue by its property. Put it with wood, fabric, or both.



- **A** ~~is usually soft~~
- **B** is flexible and bends easily
- **C** is usually hard
- **D** has color
- **E** is stiff and does not bend easily
- **F** has texture you can feel

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Find Property Words

Find words scientists use to describe materials.

Task C

/10

Find and circle 10 hidden material words. Look across and down.

M	J	R	Y	Y	C	S	O	F	U
A	T	J	S	R	O	O	K	L	L
T	E	N	M	O	L	R	P	E	M
E	X	B	O	U	O	T	P	X	L
R	T	S	O	G	R	O	W	I	V
I	U	H	T	H	Y	H	B	B	R
A	R	I	H	V	N	A	C	L	S
L	E	N	D	I	U	R	N	E	U
C	N	Y	V	E	N	D	K	B	K
V	J	V	V	A	A	S	O	F	T

- ☐ FLEXIBLE
- ☐ MATERIAL
- ☐ TEXTURE
- ☐ SMOOTH
- ☐ COLOR
- ☐ ROUGH
- ☐ SHINY
- ☐ HARD
- ☐ SOFT
- ☐ SORT

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Match the Properties

Match each property word with what it means.

Task D

Cut out the cards. Turn them over. Match each property word with its meaning.

Cut out the cards.

bright and reflects light	 **hard**	 **rough**	 **flexible**
 **soft**	bends easily without breaking	cannot bend or scratch easily	easy to press and squish
 **smooth**	bumpy to touch	 **shiny**	flat and slippery to touch

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Think About Sorting

Judge two ways you sorted classroom objects.

Task E

Think about your sorting work. How do you feel? What worked? Share short ideas to make your sort better.

> Two ways to sort classroom objects

	Red hat: feelings	Yellow hat: good points	Black hat: bad points	Green hat: ideas to improve
Sort A: Hard vs Soft				
Sort B: Shiny vs Dull				

Task F

/4

Touch each object. Write if the material is hard or soft.

Object	Hard or Soft
metal spoon	
wood block	
rubber band	
cloth square	

How did I do?

Circle a face for each line.

I can describe materials by color, texture, hardness, and flexibility. ☹ 😐 ☺

I can sort objects by an observable property. ☹ 😐 ☺

I can explain why I put materials in the same group. ☹ 😐 ☺

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Answer sheet: Sorting Materials

Task A

Answers will vary, e.g. I disagree. Not all metal is shiny because some old metal looks dull, but it is still hard. My question is: Can metal feel rough too?

Task B

Wood only: C, E

Both: D, F

Fabric only: A, B

Task C



Words: FLEXIBLE, MATERIAL, TEXTURE, SMOOTH, COLOR, ROUGH, SHINY, HARD, SOFT, SORT (see the grid)

Task D

hard = cannot bend or scratch easily

soft = easy to press and squish

rough = bumpy to touch

smooth = flat and slippery to touch

shiny = bright and reflects light

flexible = bends easily without breaking

Task E

Answers will vary.

Task F

metal spoon | hard

wood block | hard

rubber band | soft

cloth square | soft

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