

Context:

This activity has endless potential and can be used in many ways. It is best carried out outside where there is plenty of space but can equally well be enjoyed in the classroom. Pupils can work at their own pace with the faster and more able investigating uses and other properties such as the object's ability or not to change shape. The words fulfil many literacy requirements and pupils can try to apply them to other objects.

Following up the activity:

Pupils could collect five more objects and bring them back to the table, then sort them into their appropriate groups.

More able pupils could either fill in a pre-prepared groups list and could see how many times each sample occurred in a group or they could be asked to develop their own lists.

They could also suggest uses for all the materials and decide which ones could change shape in similar ways.

Underlying principles:

- Samples can be grouped in a variety of ways.
- Many of the samples will fit into more than one group.

Thinking skill development: Pupils quickly discover a pattern as they group the objects. Discussion involves metacognition and cognitive conflict is caused when objects fit into two or more groups. Applying the words to objects all around is a bridging skill.

Resource list:

- one or more lucky dip bags - preferably opaque
- a range of materials as suggested on page 1
- 'Property word cards', page 3.

Useful Links

Earthlearningidea Early years:-

'Pirates and buried treasure'

'Rock Explorers'

<http://www.earthlearningidea.com>

Source:

ESEU KS1 Rock Circus

<http://www.earthscienceeducation.com>

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Property word cards

hard

soft

stretchy

stiff

shiny

dull

rough

smooth

bendy

not bendy

waterproof

not waterproof

absorbent

not absorbent

transparent

opaque