

OBJECTIVE

- To identify a range of common materials and know that the same material is used to make different objects.

MAIN IDEAS

The children are going to play a game that involves looking closely at the materials used to make objects in the classroom. They will identify materials used in the construction of the objects and sort them on the worksheet. They will learn that paper and cardboard are wood products.

CLASS ACTIVITY

Resources needed

- An enlarged copy of the worksheet on a chalkboard/flipchart
- A copy of worksheet 2 for each child

Remind the children of the content of the first lesson, i.e. the children had to recognise materials by touch.

Play the version of the 'I Spy Game' described in the Background section. During the game introduce the idea that paper and card are made from wood.

Give the children a copy of the worksheet. Tell the children that they have to look carefully at the materials that have been used to make things in the classroom.

Show them how to use the worksheet.

Select an object made of one easily identifiable material and write its name in the correct space on the enlarged worksheet.

Then identify an object made of more than one material, e.g. a table with wooden top and metal legs. Write 'table top' in the wood cell and 'table legs' in the metal cell.

Identify a book and ask the children where they would put objects made of paper or cardboard. Remind the children that paper and cardboard are made from wood. Write 'book' in the wood cell.

Finally, encourage children to use the 'not sure' cell when they are uncertain about which material was used to make an object.

Give the children time to complete the activity and then discuss their answers in a plenary session.

As the children offer correct answers ask them why a particular material was chosen for that object. (N.B. You can often elicit quite thoughtful answers when you ask why other materials were not used to make an object, e.g. why are books not made of metal?)

Sadly, even in a simple activity such as this, there are a few pitfalls that adults have created for children. For example, some plastic products have been designed to mimic other materials, e.g. plastic surfaces of classroom tables often have a wood grain pattern, and, some computers, CD players and even crisp packets have shiny plastic parts that look metallic.

Reasons for choosing materials for a particular object will include:

Plastic: light, easy to clean, often colourful, waterproof and safe near electricity, can be strong and durable.

Metal: strong, often very heavy, can be shiny, used near water, but not visibly near electricity (Some children will know that there is metal in 'electric wires' and switches etc.).

Wood: can be strong, durable, quite easy to shape, sometimes heavy but not often used near water or electricity. Paper is flexible and lightweight. Cardboard is stronger than paper.

Glass: strong, waterproof, lets light through (translucent), can be transparent, rigid, some can be easily broken.

Fabric: usually flexible, insulates, often opaque.

Differentiation

Some children could draw the objects in the correct cell.

Survey of materials used in the classroom



Look at the materials that have been used to make things in the classroom.

Write the names of things made out of these materials.

Plastic	
Metal	
Wood	
Glass	
Fabric	
Not sure	