Practical activity ideas

Notes for the teacher - If your children need to review their learning, you can use these activities to support them.

Picture/object sort

The resources required for this activity include pictures of different objects/materials, sorting hoops, sticky notes and pencils.

Activity: Print and chop a range of pictures of different objects made from a range of familiar materials, as covered in the presentation, or provide a range of real life objects in different materials. The children can sort the pictures into the correct materials and add labels for object names.

As an extension to this activity, give the children some incorrectly sorted pictures/objects and get them to re-sort them and explain their choices.

Recycling relay

The resources required for this activity include items to be sorted and recycled and boxes/bins/bags to sort the items into.

Activity: Set up bins for different materials (plastic, paper, metal, wood etc.). Provide a mixed collection of recyclable items and have teams race to sort them correctly. Once they have been sorted, ask the children to name the items in each of the bins.

Material investigation

The resources required for this activity include a range of objects in different materials, magnifying glasses, scales, clipboards, paper, pencils, whiteboards, pens and sticky notes.

Activity: Set up an 'Investigation station' with a question to investigate, such as "are metal objects always the heaviest?".

The children can work in pairs or small groups to investigate the question and record their findings using the paper or whiteboards, or just verbally recall what they have found out by ordering the items in order of weight, labelling them and the material they are made from.

Building project

The resources required for this activity include various materials, string and tape etc.

Activity: Children work in pairs or small groups to create a simple structure using different materials They should label the materials that they have used and the 'object' they have created.

As an extension to this activity, ask the children to discuss the properties of each material and why they chose them for their object.