

Sedgwick Activities

Materials detectives - Notes for teachers

Curriculum links. KS1: exploring the world around them. KS 1 & 2: everyday materials, gathering and recording data, working scientifically

By the end of the activity children will be able to:

- Identify a range of common materials and recognised that the same material can be used to make different objects
- Recognise properties such as hardness, strength and flexibility
- Recognise that materials are suitable for making particular objects because of their properties

In groups of 5/6, ask the children explore the Sedgwick Museum and start identifying the materials around them. Encourage them to make observations of the building as well as the objects in the display cases. Remember you can go back outside look at the stone steps, roof and walls. Spend approximately 15 minutes exploring. Encourage the children to pick out different material types.

Get back together and discuss some of the materials that they have found. How many? What were they used for?

Give each child a worksheet (you'll need to bring pencils and clip boards) and ask them to go and draw an object. Encourage the children to explore, observe and use their imagination. Filling in the table will encourage them to record their findings scientifically.

Example worksheet

Draw an object in the museum	What materials are used in the object?
eg a cabinet	<i>wood, glass, metal</i>
	Describe its appearance. Think about the characteristics of the materials e.g. rough/smooth, shiny/dull
	<i>Try describing the appearance of each material. Shiny, smooth, opaque</i>
	Why have those materials been used?
	<i>To see museum artefacts. To protect the display. Durable and heavy, attractive, cost effective etc</i>

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Materials detectives - worksheet

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