

Key Concepts

What are materials used for?

- Materials are used for different purposes based on their properties.
- For example, wood is used to make furniture and floors.
- Metal can be used to make coins, cans, cars and cutlery.
- Glass can be used to make windows.



What properties of materials make them suitable for a particular use?

- Glass can be used to make windows because it is transparent.
- Rulers can be made from wood, plastic or rubber because these materials are smooth and can be cut straight.
- Spoons are made from metal, because it is waterproof and can be cleaned easily.
- They can also be made from plastic for children because plastic is light and it cannot hurt children's growing teeth.



How can you change the shape of materials?

The shape of some materials can be changed when they are stretched, twisted, bent and squashed.



Key Vocabulary

absorbent	material that soaks up liquid easily
bendy	an object that bends easily into a curved shape
elastic	a rubber material that stretches when you pull it and returns to its original size and shape when you let it go
fabrics	cloth or other material produced by weaving together cotton, wool or other threads.
foil	sheets of metal as thin as paper
glass	a hard transparent material
metal	a hard substance such as iron, steel, gold, or lead
opaque	if an object or substance is opaque , you cannot see through it
plastic	a material which is light in weight and does not break easily
properties	the qualities or features that belong to something and make it recognisable
recyclable	waste or materials which can be processed and used again
rough	uneven and not smooth
squash	pressed or crushed with such force that something loses its shape
stiff	firm or does not bend easily
stretchy	slightly elastic
suitable	something that is suitable for a particular purpose or occasion is right or acceptable for it
transparent	If an object is transparent , you can see through it
unsuitable	Someone or something that is unsuitable for a particular purpose or situation does not have the right properties for it
waterproof	does not let water pass through it

Working Scientifically Skills

	Asking questions		Observing and measuring
	Explaining results – saying what we found out		Recording information
	Using books, videos, the internet, people and photos to find answers.		Looking for patterns – sorting and grouping

Famous Scientists



Leo Hendrik Baekeland (1863–1944), who discovered the durable plastic in 1907.