

Project glossary

absorbency

The ability to easily soak up liquid, such as water.

absorbent

A property of some materials. An absorbent material easily soaks up liquid, such as water.

bend

To push or pull an object until it is curved (no longer straight).

bendy

A property of some materials. A bendy material can easily be pushed or pulled into a new shape without breaking.

cardboard

A material made from layers of paper that is used for making objects, such as boxes.

clay

A natural material that is a type of soil. It becomes hard when baked and is used to make bricks and pots.

fabric

A material that can be natural or man-made and is used for making objects, such as clothes, curtains and cushions.

glass

A hard material that is usually transparent and is made from a mixture of sand and chemicals. It is used for making windowpanes and bottles.

hard

A property of some materials. A hard material does not change shape when bent, stretched, twisted or squashed.



man-made

Made by people.

material

What things can be made from, such as metal, plastic or wood.

metal

A natural material that is usually hard and shiny and comes from rocks called ores.

natural

Found in nature.

natural resource

A material, such as water or wood that exists in nature and can be used by people.

object

A thing that you can see and touch that is not alive, such as a chair or table.

opaque

An opaque material stops light travelling through it so you cannot see through it, such as metal.

paper

A man-made material made from wood that is used for writing and drawing on and wrapping and packing things.

plastic

A strong, man-made material that is made from chemicals and can be formed into different shapes when heated.

pollution

Harmful materials that are introduced into the environment, such as litter.



property

A quality that a material has, such as hard or soft.

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recycle

The process of collecting, sorting and changing old objects into something new to use the materials they are made from again.

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rock

A natural material that is hard and that forms part of the surface of the Earth.

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rough

A property of some materials. A rough material feels jagged and bumpy when touched.

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rubbish

The objects people throw away, such as packaging, because they no longer need or want them.

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shape

To make materials become a particular shape by bending, stretching, twisting or squashing.

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smooth

A property of some materials. A smooth material has no jagged or bumpy areas.

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soft

A property of some materials. A soft material changes shape easily when bent, stretched, twisted or squashed.

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squash

To push an object so that it becomes flatter.



strength

The ability to hold a heavy weight without breaking or being damaged.

stretch

To pull or push an object so that it becomes thinner, longer or wider.

stretchy

A property of some materials. A stretchy material can easily be made thinner, longer or wider without breaking or tearing.

strong

A property of some materials. A strong material cannot be bent, stretched, twisted or squashed and is difficult to break.

sustainability

Looking after the planet in a way that does not harm it for the future.

texture

How an object feels when touched, such as rough, smooth, hard or soft.

transparent

A transparent material allows you to see through it, such as glass.

twist

To turn or wind an object into a spiral shape.

waterproof

A waterproof material does not let water pass through it.

wood

A natural material that comes from the trunk and branches of trees. It is hard, strong and absorbent.



Scientific terms glossary

compare

To look at two or more things closely and see what is the same or different.

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data

Collected information or facts, including numbers, words, measurements or observations.

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describe

To say aloud or write how something is done or what something is like.

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diagram

A drawing with labels that shows the parts of something.

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equipment

An object or objects that are needed for a particular purpose, such as a hand lens, ruler or thermometer.

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investigation

An activity that involves a person studying a subject or problem carefully to learn facts or answer a question. An investigation includes a planning, doing, recording and reviewing stage.

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method

A set of instructions or steps to do a particular task.

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observe

To watch or look at something carefully.

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prediction

A statement made by a person where they say what they think will happen in the future, using their knowledge or experiences.



question

Something we ask using the words how, what, where, when, who and why.

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record

To write down data, such as numbers, words, measurements or observations in different ways, such as lists, tables, charts or labelled diagrams.

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research

To study a subject to discover new facts or information.

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results

The data collected from an investigation or test.

