

Project glossary

absorbent

A property of some materials. An absorbent material easily soaks up liquid.

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bendy

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

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brick

A human-made material made from clay. It is used for building houses.

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ceramic

A human-made material made from clay. It is used to make cups and plates.

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clay

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

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concrete

A human-made material made from sand and stone. It is used to make buildings and pavements.

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cotton

A natural material that comes from the seed of the cotton plant. It is used to make clothing.

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fabric

A material that can be natural or human-made and is used for making clothes, curtains and cushions.



glass

A human-made material made from sand. It is used to make drinking glasses and windowpanes.

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hard

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

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human-made

Made by people.

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leather

A natural material made from animal skin. It is used to make bags, belts, shoes and coats.

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material

What objects are made from, such as metal, plastic or wood.

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metal

A natural material found in rocks in the ground. It is used to make jewellery and structures.

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metal alloy

A human-made material that is made by mixing different natural metals. Metal alloys are used to make musical instruments and structures.

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natural

Found in nature.

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oil

A natural material found deep underground. It is used to make petrol, waxes, road surfaces, some plastics and synthetic fabrics.



opaque

A property of some materials. An opaque material cannot be seen through.

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paper

A human-made material made from wood. It is used for writing on and packaging.

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plastic

A human-made material that can be made from oil. It is used for making toys, containers and garden furniture.

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property

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

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rough

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

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rubber

A natural material that comes from inside the trunk of rubber trees. It is used to make tyres, toys and wellies.

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sand

A natural material that is found in the ground on beaches and in deserts. It is used to make mortar and glass.

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shiny

A property of some materials. A shiny material is bright and appears lit up. You can sometimes see your reflection in a shiny material.

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silk

A natural material made from the cocoons of silkworms. It is used to make clothing.



smooth

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

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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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stone

A natural material found in the ground. It is used to make buildings.

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stretchy

A property of some materials. A stretchy material can easily be pulled to make it thinner, longer or wider without breaking or tearing.

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synthetic fabric

A human-made fabric, sometimes made from oil.

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transparent

A property of some materials. A transparent material can be seen through.

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water

A natural material that comes from rivers, reservoirs and seas. It is used to make drinks and for cooking.

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waterproof

A property of some materials. A waterproof material does not let water pass through it.

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wood

A natural material that comes from the trunk and branches of trees. It is used to make furniture and paper.



wool

A natural material that comes from the fleece of sheep. It is used to make clothing and blankets.

Scientific terms glossary

compare

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

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describe

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

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equipment

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

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investigation

An activity that involves a person studying a subject or problem carefully to learn facts or answer a question.

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observe

To watch or look at something carefully.

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question

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



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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results

The data collected from an investigation or test.

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Venn diagram

A way of grouping information or objects based on their characteristics using overlapping circles.

