Uses of Materials **Knowledge Organiser**

Material	Properties	Common Uses	Properties
Wood	 rigid hard opaque dull 	furniturefencespencilsinstruments	
Glass	 transparent rigid waterproof smooth 	 windows glasses jars lightbulbs 	
Fabric	 soft flexible absorbent opaque 	 jumpers blankets soft toys towels	
Metal	 hard shiny waterproof rigid 	fencescutlerycoinskeys	
Rock	 rough or smooth rigid waterproof opaque 	wallsbuildingsroadsstatues	
Paper	 bendy transparent or opaque absorbent 	 books newspapers boxes envelopes 	
Plastic	 transparent or opaque hard or soft rigid or flexible waterproof 	 carrier bags drinks bottles food packaging toys furniture straws 	

Can materials be used to make the same object?

Different materials can be used to make the same object. Spoons can be made from plastic, wood and metal.

What are flexible materials?

Flexible materials can change shape. You can change the shape of an object by...

bending	stretching
change the shape something into a curve	change the shape of something by pulling it at each end

Famous Scientists

George Washington Carver

Best known for inventing new uses for the peanut. He used peanuts to invent more than 300 products, including milk, plastics, paints, dyes, oils, soap and even petrol.

Best known for discovering a new material called Kevlar that is strong enough to stop bullets and has saved thousands of lives.

Kev Words

incy moras					
absorbent	soaks up liquid easily	biodegradable	breaks down		
dull	not shiny	flexible	changes shape		
inventor	makes something new	opaque	you cannot see through it		
pollution	harmful effect on the environment	properties	qualities or features		
recycling	When materials are reused	rigid	does not change shape		
transparent	See through	waterproof	does not let water in		

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squashing

change the shape of something by pushing it together

twisting

change the shape of something by turning your hands in the opposite direction

Stephanie Kwolek



Charles Macintosh

Best known for inventing a waterproof fabric to keep people dry. The mackintosh raincoat (or mac) is named after him.

Stephanie Kwolek image: Science History Institute