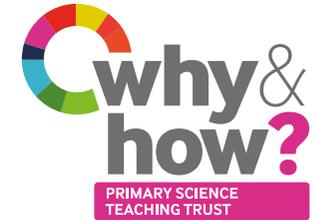




# It's all 'curtains' to me!

## SEN FOCUS

Exploration of materials, learning to sequence and sort



### ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Here, pupils explore different materials for their suitability to meet one or more of these challenges:

You own a curtain factory and need to find the best material to make: a shower curtain; a black out curtain that blocks the light; a draft excluder curtain that can stop cold wind.

**Key vocabulary/symbols required:** waterproof, absorbent, soak, thin, thick, warm, cool, light, transparent, opaque, translucent, water, wet, dry, move

#### Description of Activity

- Produce a simple washing line.
- Select a range of materials, including materials that are waterproof and materials with a variety of thread counts.
- Cut all the materials to the same size and hang them up on the line.
- Shine torches through the materials; spray water on the materials; direct the breeze from the fan onto the materials.

*Health and Safety: activity leader to remind pupils not to shine torches near the faces of others.*

### KEY FACTS/SCIENCE

To make the best use of materials, it is essential to know their properties so that we can choose the correct material for the job. Some material properties can be judged by visual inspection alone. Other properties require investigation with other senses, such as testing the material by shining light through it, activating a fan towards it or wetting the material.

### RESOURCES

- |                              |              |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Torches                      | Washing line |
| Water                        | Pegs         |
| Fans                         | Pipettes     |
| Range of household materials |              |

### QUESTIONS/FURTHER LEARNING

- Which materials are waterproof?
- Which materials would keep you dry?
- What material would you use as a shower curtain?
- Which materials block the light?
- What materials would you use for a blackout curtain?
- Which materials move the least when in front of a fan?
- What material would you use for a curtain, to stop the cold wind from entering your house?