CURRICULUM AREA: MATERIALS



CHARLES MACINTOSH

202





THE JOURNEY OF YOUR RAINCOAT

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Knowledge

• Identify the properties of a raincoat

Scientific Enquiry

- Conduct a simple comparative test to compare waterproof materials.
- Set up a simple test, make observations and record results in a table and interpret and communicate results.

(You may change the focus of your lesson, and the skills you wish the children to develop.)

*This activity does not develop the skill of predicting, as the children may not have sufficient prior knowledge to do this.

RESOURCES (PER GROUP):

- ✓ Plastic cups or beakers x 3
- ✓ Squares of household cleaning cloth or old cotton x 6 (large enough to cover the cup or beaker)
- ✓ Pipettes/syringes/beakers
- ✓ Water
- ✓ PVA glue
- ✓ Glue stick
- ✓ Cooking oil
- ✓ Glue spreader
- ✓ Elastic bands
- ✓ Tray in which to contain the resources to avoid spillages
- ✓ Other substances that may be spread between two layers (e.g. wax crayon)

ACTIVITIES

- Introduce the story of the raincoat. Use the presentation resource and template to set the scene, describing Macintosh's approach to developing a waterproof material. You may like to use hot-seating, to get the children to ask Charles Macintosh about his investigation.
- 2. Guide the children through the investigation, supporting them to observe, compare and record how waterproof the glue sandwiches are, by dropping water onto the materials using a pipette or syringe.
- 3. Children could record their observations in a pre-made table or one that they create.
- 4. Discuss which combination created the best waterproof material.
- 5. Reflect on how the children would improve coat designs in the future.



EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

- 1. Ensure that the children have an opportunity to ask further questions about waterproof materials.
- 2. Children may wish to design their own waterproof coat, labelling key properties.
- 3. Children may wish to observe their own coats and properties required for different seasons.
- 4. Compare results for wet and dry glue.

VOCABULARY

MATERIAL

The substance or substances from which an object is made, e.g. metal, glass or fabric

PROPERTY

A characteristic of a substance

WATERPROOF

The property of a material that ensures that it does not let water through

ABSORBENT Able to take up and retain liquids

OBSERVE

Use senses closely to discover what is happening

RECORD

Using a table to make a note of what happens during the investigation

THE JOURNEY OF YOUR RAINCOAT

TOP TIPS / USEFUL IDEAS

- To save time, pre-prepare glue sandwiches, but model how to put a layer of glue between two layers of household cloths
- You may wish to leave your glue/oil sandwiches overnight to allow them to dry fully
- Use coloured water to see the water drip through more clearly
- To compare the amount of water that has dripped through the cloth, put a piece of filter paper in the cup and draw around the puddle
- Use a miniature figure in the beaker to represent a person inside the rain jacket
- Bring in some modern waterproof coats to look at their properties and/or look at the children's raincoats

QUESTIONS FOR PROGRESSION AND ASSESSMENT

Questions for developing scientific enquiry:

- How will you know which material is most waterproof?
- How will you make a fair test?
- How will you measure/record your findings?
- What did you find out?

Questions for developing an understanding of scientific attitudes and attributes:

- Why did Charles Macintosh want to develop a waterproof coat?
- What did you like about Charles Macintosh's experiment?
- Do you think Charles Macintosh only carried out his experiment once?





I liked doing the fabric sandwiches and seeing if they worked with water – like Macintosh did!
Child's comment

DOWNLOADABLE RESOURCES:

In the resource pack you will find a completed Template, 3 versions of the Timeline and a Classroom Presentation for Charles Macintosh.







