Science

Uses of Everyday Materials

Background Information

In this unit, children will learn about the uses of everyday materials including wood, plastic, metal, glass, brick, paper and cardboard. Children will then go on to compare the suitability of different everyday materials for different purposes. They will explore how some everyday materials can change shape and how the recycling process is able to reuse some materials numerous times. Finally the children will learn about John McAdam and how his discovery made an impact over time.

In this unit the children will…

- Identify and compare the suitability of a variety of everyday materials for particular uses, by identifying the uses of different materials.
- Identify and classify the uses of everyday materials, in the context of the local area.
- Identify and compare the suitability of a variety of everyday materials for particular uses, by exploring the purposes of different objects.
- Find out how the shapes of solid objects made from some materials can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting and stretching by changing the shape of objects.
- Find out how the shapes of solid objects made from some materials can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting and stretching in the context of recycling.
- Find out about people who have developed new materials, by learning about John McAdam.

By the end of this unit….

All children can:

- Identify and name everyday materials.
- Identify different uses of everyday materials.
- Record their observations.
- Demonstrate and explain how shapes of objects made from some materials can be changed.
- Explain what recycling means.

Most children will:

- Compare the uses of different everyday materials.
- Compare the suitability of different everyday materials.
- Explain the basic progress of recycling.
- Explain the advantages of recycling.
- Name the process invented by John McAdam.

Some children will:

- Classify the uses of different everyday materials.
- Compare and explain the suitability of everyday materials in different circumstances.
- Use their observations, ideas and experiences to ask and answer simple questions.
- Suggest reasons for specific outcomes.
- Explain how recycling impacts positively on the environment.
- Explain how the inventions and discoveries of others have impacted on our lives today.

Key Vocabulary

Identify, materials, wood, plastic, glass, metal, rock, brick, paper, cardboard, uses, used, properties, hard, soft, stretchy, stiff, shiny, dull, rough, smooth, bendy, not bendy, absorbent, not absorbent, waterproof, not waterproof, transparent, opaque, observations, record, classify, group, similar, safe, unusual, compare, suitability, suitable, unsuitable, purpose, change, squashing, bending, twisting, stretching, squash, bend, twist, stretch, recycle, recycling, reuse, biodegradable, environment, landfill site, recycling depot, shredded, melted, pellets, raw materials, greenhouse gases, invent, macadamisation, macadam road, patent, Parliament, compensated, royalties, knighthood, tar, tarmacadam, tarmac.