

Fabrics Pack

The fabric samples within this pack can be used for a variety of investigations and experiments. The aim of these notes is to give teachers a few ideas as to how the fabric samples can be used.

Key Stage One

- Put the fabrics in a feely bag and ask the children to describe them.
- Let the teacher describe a fabric. Can the children guess which one is being talked about?
- Challenge the children to find the best fabric for a particular purpose e.g. the 'best' fabric for bedroom curtains, the 'best' fabric for a winter coat etc.
- Investigate the properties needed for an umbrella and then choose the best fabric to make an umbrella from.

Additional Activities

- Which fabric would make the best earmuffs?
- Which fabrics are made from naturally occurring materials?
- Which fabric would make the best reflective coat?
- Ask the children to 'sort' the materials into groups and explain their decisions.

Key Stage Two

Materials

- Which fabric can withstand 'rubbing' the best? Investigate which of the fabrics from the pack would make the best trousers for a rock climber.
- Which fabric is the most absorbent? Why?

Light and Shadows

- Which fabrics are opaque? Transparent? Or translucent? (How much light comes through each fabric?)
- Which fabrics form the best shadow and why?

Keeping Warm

- Use the fabric selection to insulate cups of hot water and use data logging equipment to monitor the changes in temperature over a time period.
- Use the fabrics to make a display of materials that keep us warm/cold.
- What effect does varying the number of layers have on keeping something warm?
- Which fabric would make the best space suit

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Changing States

- Do some fabrics dry faster than others?
- Where would your washing dry quickest?

Sounds

- Which fabric would be best to use as sound insulation around a noisy alarm clock?
Investigate.