

Things People Make



Topic: Technology/Building

Curriculum link: Study of Society/Technology

Text type: Report – question/answer

Reading level: 23

Word count: 1017

Vocabulary: chemicals, electricity, fabric, flexible, glass, hide, iron ore, leather, magnets, materials, metals, moulds, networks, oil, optical fibres, packaging, paper, plastic, recycled, rock wool, rust, sandpaper, steel, wood chips, woven

Possible literacy focus:

- Understanding scientific and technical language: combining, fibres, iron ore, rust.
- Discussing the materials that were used in the construction of the objects on page 24.

Follow-up activities

Understanding text structure: Report – question and answer

Explore the structure of a report with the children. Reports provide factual information about a class or group of things. They have an opening statement or classification followed by facts about the topic. Diagrams and labels may be used as well. This particular report is structured by the use of questions and answers. Fill in a chart with the children like the one below to show how this report is structured.

Introduction (opening statement)	
Question	Fact
1. What is this material?	It is...
2.	
3.	
etc.	

Describing phrases and words

Write the following words and phrases on the board: 'as thin as hair', 'very light', 'strong', 'flexible'.

Ask the children to tell you about these words and phrases. *What do they mean?*

Now ask the children to work with a partner to identify other words and phrases that are used to describe the various materials. Add these to the class list.

Skim reading

Ask the children to turn to pages 18–19 in *Things People Make*.

What do you expect to find out about on these pages?

How is plastic made?

What is it used for?

Explain to the children that sometimes you need to skim read the text to locate certain pieces of information quickly. In this example, the children could skim the text to locate information about things that are made out of plastic. Remind the children that skim reading means that you do not read every word on the page.

Create something new!

You will need:

paper, felt pens, pencils, ruler

1. Think about something new to design.
2. It must be made from one or more of the materials in *Things People Make*.
3. Jot down some ideas on paper.
4. Pick one of your ideas and draw your design.
5. Label all of the features.
6. Share your creation with the class.

Collage

You will need:

cardboard, newspaper, icypole sticks, sticks, straws, pipe cleaners, material, coloured paper, crepe paper, pencils, glue, scissors, sticky tape

1. Work with a partner to make a collage of some of the different things that people make in the book.
2. Label the things.
3. Label the materials they are made from.
4. Share your work with the class.

Different materials

Write about these materials.

Material	What is it like?	How is it made?	What is it used for?
glass 			
steel 			
paper 			
plastic 			
leather 			

Definitions

These words describe the processes used to produce certain materials. Explain what they mean.

Word	Explanation
combining	
heating	
mixing	
stretched	
flattened	
soaking	
moulded	
crushed	

Write about your favourite thing from the book. Why is it your favourite?
