



## Topic: Materials

Optimal Age Groups: Primary & Junior

**We live in a material world.** But that's nothing to get worked up about! Materials are all around us and we have carefully chosen each one to perform a specific task. Most materials are chosen based on their desirable properties. After all, a brick window doesn't make much sense! Some materials are man-made and others come from the careful collection of natural products.

### But how do we identify each type of material?

In this session, we will talk about the different properties of metal, plastic, glass, wood, and fabric. Discussions will focus on how each material is made and what purpose they serve. Topics of inquiry include: What types of materials are best for building a house? Why do we choose these specific materials and not others? What is the difference between pure and impure materials? Which materials can be recycled? And more!

Students will then get to explore the world of materials by visiting our "material petting zoo". We have various samples of metals, ceramics, and polymers that make hands-on learning fun! Can you distinguish an alloy from an element? Are you strong enough to break a piece of wood against the grain? Students will be asked to demonstrate their learning by identifying different materials that can be found right in their own classrooms.