

## Investigate Materials

School Session Overview

October 2025

### Key information

**Length of session:** 90 mins

**Key Stage:** KS1

**Location(s) of session:** PPMCC Learning Space and Uniform Store

Learning objectives	Curriculum links
<p>Learners will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use practical scientific methods, processes and skills</li> <li>perform simple tests</li> <li>observe and use observations to answer questions</li> <li>discover threats to objects and how to look after them</li> </ul>	<p>KS1 Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perform simple tests</li> <li>Using observations and ideas to suggest answers to questions</li> <li>Distinguish between an object and the material from which it is made</li> <li>Identify, name a variety of everyday materials, including wood, plastic, glass, metal, water, and rock</li> <li>Describe the simple physical properties of a variety of everyday materials</li> </ul> <p>KS1/KS2 History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How people's lives have shaped this nation and how Britain has influenced and been influenced by the wider world</li> </ul>

### Key words

materials, textiles, paper, metal, wood, light, fire, heat, movement, pests, damage, threats

### Overview of the session

#### Introduction

Learners put on a lab coat and learn what a conservator at the museum does. The class is subdivided into two groups for the next two activities, which both groups do.

#### Learning Space Activity

Learners sort objects based on the material it's made from and discuss properties of the material. They then investigate what causes damage to different materials and how can they be looked after by taking part in simple practical experiments.

#### Uniform Store Activity

Learners visit the stores and meet a very special toy. Through hearing the toy's story, learners make connections with historical objects and what they can tell us about people who owned and historic events.

Suggested pre visit knowledge/ activities	Suggested post visit activities
<p>Have students discuss/describe something they consider special (e.g. a teddy, family photo, book, medal). Why is this object special to them? How do they take care of it?</p>	<p>Learners could design a poster for a museum/school/shared bedroom explaining how to look after old or delicate objects and/or favourite toys including ideas such as no direct sunlight, no food near artefacts, clean hands/gloves, keep pests away.</p> <p>Encourage learners to keep a diary of materials they encounter (plastic, metal, glass, etc.) and their properties. Why was this material used/chosen to be used?</p>
<b>Links to useful resources</b>	
<a href="#">Magnetic Meteorites   Royal Museums Greenwich</a> <a href="#">STEM Learning   Resource Collection   British Science Week</a> <a href="#">Conservation   Royal Museums Greenwich</a>	