



# Whacky Materials

Chemical Sciences



Written for the Australian Curriculum: Science

Sienna Osborne | Randall Hall | Richard John

## AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM: SCIENCE

<b>Strand:</b>	Science Understanding, Science as a Human Endeavour
<b>Sub-strand:</b>	Chemical Sciences
<b>Descriptor:</b>	Objects are made of materials that have observable properties People use science in their daily lives

### SCIENCE WORDS

Materials, soft, brittle, water proof, hard, rough, heavy

### INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OR CAREGIVER

Helping your child learn to read is a rewarding and enjoyable experience for both you and your child. Here are some ways you can help your child with their reading.

#### BEFORE READING

- Introduce the book; read the title and look at the picture on the front cover. Ask what the book might be about.
- Ask your child if they know any examples of materials. Look through the book and talk about the pictures. Can they identify any materials?
- Refer to the science words. Discuss each word and its meaning. These words will appear in the book.

#### DURING READING

- Ensure the book is being held correctly and your child is tracking the words from left to right across the page.
- Encourage your child to look at the pictures for clues if they are unsure of a word.
- Should your child need help to decode a word, break it down into its individual sounds, and blend them together from left to right.

#### SCIENCE CONCEPTS IN THIS BOOK

Students learn to differentiate objects from the materials from which they are made. Objects and structures we encounter every day are made from a wide range of materials including metal, plastic, rubber, glass, ceramic, wood, paper and concrete.

The material used in a particular object or structure is determined by the **properties** of that material. For example, rubber would not be used for the foundation of your house or for the windows. The reason is that rubber has **properties** that include low compressive strength and low optical transparency. Concrete has high compressive strength so it is an excellent material for the foundation of your house. Glass has high optical transparency and is an excellent material for windows.

Your child will learn later that it is actually the arrangement of tiny particles (such as atoms and molecules) that dictate the properties of materials; so **particle arrangement dictates the properties of materials and the properties of materials dictate their uses.**



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**Suzie the Scientist says ...**

“Can you make a toothbrush from play-dough?”

“No! That’s whacky!”  
says Bella.

“Play-dough is too soft.”



Suzie the Scientist says ...

“Can you make a hammer from glass?”

“No! That’s whacky!”  
says Bella.

“Glass is too brittle.”



The *properties* of a material need to be appropriate for its *use* in different objects.

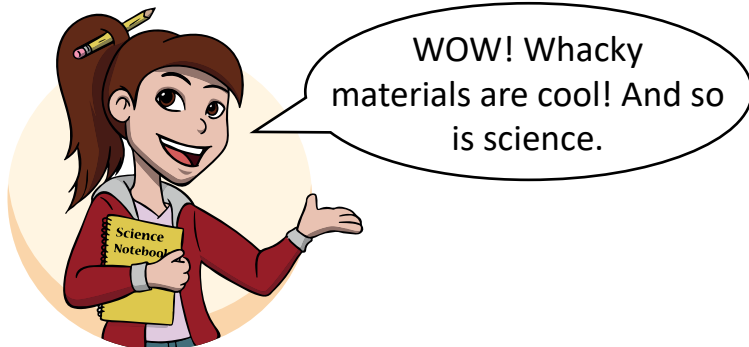


# Suzie the Scientist says ...

“Can you make a window from glass?”

“Yes! ” says Bella.

“That’s perfect!”



## AFTER READING

Ask your child what the book was about and encourage them to re-tell it in the order in which it appeared.

Discuss the following with your child to assist in understanding the content of the book:

- Why can't we make a hammer from glass?
- Why is glass a good choice of material for a window?
- Do you think rubber would be a good material to use to make a hammer? Why? Why not?
- What is your favourite material? Why? (Think of metal, plastic, rubber, paper, glass, wood etc.)

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**In this book Suzie the Scientist helps us learn about different materials and the uses we have for them. We learn that using certain materials for certain objects is not a good choice (for example, using paper for raincoats or glass for hammers). Suzie also teaches us how the use of a material is dictated by its properties.**

**Australian Curriculum:** All books in the 'Suzie the Scientist' series are written for the *Australian Curriculum: Science* and align directly to what children learn in the classroom. This book addresses the learning outcome "Objects are made of materials that have observable properties" from the Chemical Sciences sub-strand.



WOW!  
Materials are cool! And so is science.

## PARENTS, READ ALONG WITH SUZIE!

*Throughout this book Suzie the Scientist tells us interesting scientific facts. Use these pages to encourage further interest and discussion about **materials** with your child.*

### Suggested Reading Level:



PM 5-8, Fountas & Pinnell D-E

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