



LESSON PLAN

MATERIAL PROPERTIES AND PURPOSES GRADES K-2

SUMMARY

Students will analyze data from different paper towel brands to see which is the most absorbent. Duration: 45 minutes.



ENGAGE

Place a cup with liquid on a table and “accidentally” knock it over. Say, “Oh no! This is a problem!” Does anyone have any suggestions on how I can solve this problem?” Students will likely suggest wiping it up, and if they don’t, prompt them with “what kinds of things would be best for wiping up this spill?” They may suggest paper towels, a sponge or a towel. After you wipe the spill up, tell them that today they will do an investigation into different brands of paper towels to determine which brand is the most absorbent.



EXPLORE

Have students get into groups of three students. Pass out baggies with three different brands of paper towels and label the bags “1”, “2” and “3” with a permanent marker. Students will also need a teaspoon and a cup of water. For best results, include a very cheap type of paper towel that barely absorbs any water as well as a high quality one that has excellent absorbency. Make sure the pieces are the same size.

Have students talk to each other about how they can use the supplies to test which paper towel is the most absorbent. Have student groups share ideas out loud. Hopefully they will come up with something similar to counting how many teaspoons of water each paper towel can soak up before they can’t soak up any more. Tell students to take spoonfuls of water and drip it onto each paper towel, counting how many spoonfuls it can soak up before it is full. They may want to use the tallying method to keep track in their notebooks.

MATERIALS

Per Group of 3:

- 3 Different brands of paper towels
- 3 Ziploc bags
- 1 Teaspoon
- 1 Cup of water
- Science notebooks

DIY Activity

- 2 Baby diapers
- Plastic cup
- Ziploc bag
- Pair of scissors
- Cup of water



EXPLAIN

Have students share out their findings from the experiment. Discuss the data and compare the results of different groups. Explain that different materials have different properties that serve different purposes. How well something can soak up water is called absorbency. There are other properties that are important to know when making things such as hardness and texture.



ELABORATE



WATCH THE GENERATION GENIUS MATERIAL PROPERTIES AND PURPOSES VIDEO AS A GROUP

Facilitate a conversation using the Discussion Questions.



EVALUATE

Students can play the online Kahoot! quiz game located below the video which provides downloadable scores at the end of the quiz game. Alternatively, you can use the paper quiz or the exit ticket questions. All these resources are located below the video in the Assessment section.