Year 2 Knowledge Organiser—Classifying Materials

Materials are the substance things are made from. We see lots of different materials each day and some materials can be used to make many things.

Properties of materials

Name of	What it might look like	Properties of the	What it could	
material		material	be used for.	
Brick		Hard, strong, thick, stores heat well, hard-wearing.	Strong walls when joined together with mortar. Can be laid flat and used for paving	
Cardboard		Comes in different thicknesses. Made of paper but can be harder to tear. Goes soggy when wet.	Often used to make boxes. Thin card can be used for postcards, playing cards, folders and other items which need to be made from something more durable than paper.	
Glass		Glass is strong but can break or shatter. Transparent and waterproof. Can be heated and formed into different shapes.	Used for windows and doors. It is used for mirrors, drinking glasses, table tops, car windscreens, bottles and lightbulbs.	
Metal		Shiny, hard wearing and difficult to break. Can be thick and strong or thin and flexible. It can be hammered, bent or heated and moulded into different shapes.	Can be made into pots and pans, Can be formed into thick pipes or thin wires, It can be used for steps, window and door frames or jewellery.	
Paper		Thin and light. Can be torn or cut easily. Paper gets soggy when wet.	Used for writing or printing. It can come in large sheets for posters, displays or table cloths.	
Plastic		Tough but can be flexible. It can be made into lots of different shapes. Cheap to produce and washable. It is waterproof and lightweight.	Many items are plastic including bottles, toys, pegs, pens, knives and forks, lunchboxes, hard hats, packaging and buckets.	
Rubber		Rubber can be tough , but also flexible . Rubber can be stretchy . It is waterproof and doesn't tear easily.	Rubber bands, tyres, tubes, raincoats and boots. Balloons, gloves and some glues.	
Wood		Hard and strong. It is a natural material which can be cut and shaped.	Looks nice and so is used for furniture and musical instruments. It is easy to carve and so good for boats.	