

Everyday Materials: Lesson 4

Planning an Experiment to Make a Comfy Kitten Bed

Science KS1 Year 1



Everyday Materials: Planning an Experiment to Make a Comfy Kitten Bed

Science

Key Stage 1 Year 1

Learning Aims:

- learn how to prepare to make an experiment
- prepare to investigate how to make a comfortable bed for a young kitten

Curriculum Links:

Working Scientifically

During years 1 and 2, pupils should be taught to use the following practical scientific methods, processes and skills through the teaching of the programme of study content:

- asking simple questions and recognising that they can be answered in different ways
- observing closely, using simple equipment
- performing simple tests
- identifying and classifying
- using their observations and ideas to suggest answers to questions
- gathering and recording data to help in answering questions

Keywords

Absorbent. Predict. Prediction.

These can also be found at the end of this PDF in printable format.



This is a practical lesson, introducing the children to conducting an experiment. The accompanying PowerPoint aims to enhance this lesson. However, as not all children will be able to read the words, it should be regarded as a visual support throughout the lesson, and help provide a fun, engaging narrative to take them through the steps of conducting a fair test.

Before you begin the experiment, you could consider reading a story about a cat: perhaps *Tabby McTat* by Julia Donaldson, *They All Saw a Cat* by Brendan Wenzel or *Macavity* by T.S. Eliot. We found a range of suggestions at **BookTrust** <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/booklists/c/childrens-books-cats/>

You could even bring in a toy kitten to introduce to the children before setting the challenge!

You will need:

Materials for the children to investigate their properties as suitable lining for a cat basket. We recommend you use the same materials as referred to in the PowerPoint:

- Newspaper
- Cotton wool
- Paper towels
- Towel
- Testing prediction worksheets, which can be printed, are on pages 5, 6 and 7 of this PDF.

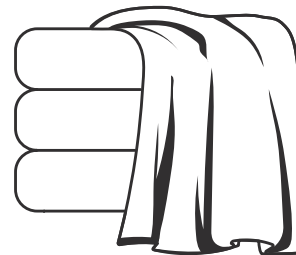
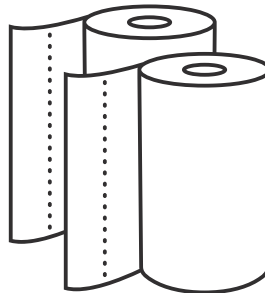
PowerPoint Presentation

The accompanying PowerPoint has 27 slides with the following learning points:

- Slides 1 and 2 introduce the lesson.
- Slide 3 asks the children to think about the question with which to begin their investigation: 'what material would make the best lining for a kitten bed?' We suggest you discuss this with the children before animating the slide to reveal the answer.
- Slide 4 looks at what properties the material will need to have: soft, absorbent, strong.
- Slides 5 and 6 explain the meaning of 'absorbent'.

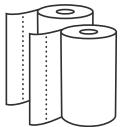


- Slides 7 and 8 explain why the material needs to be soft and strong. Before you animate each slide, you can ask the children why they think these properties are needed.
- Slide 9 asks whether the material will need any other properties, which can be an opportunity for further classroom discussion.
- Slide 10 asks what materials would be best for the kitten's bed. The children can think of their own ideas.
- Slide 11 reveals our proposed materials: newspaper, towel, cotton wool, paper towel.
- Slide 12 explains the principal of a **fair test**.
- Slide 13 explains the meaning of **prediction**.
- Slides 14 to 17 describe how the materials can be tested for absorption, and what the children predict.
- Slides 18 to 21 describe how the materials can be tested for softness, and what the children will predict.
- Slides 22 to 25 describe how the materials can be tested for strength, and what the children will predict.
- Slide 26 asks what the predictions were, and sets up the experiment in the next lesson.
- Slide 27 is the closing slide.



Our Predictions: Absorbency

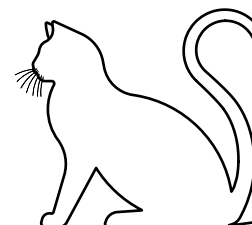
Put a tick in the column for each material to show how absorbent you **predict** it will be.

Material	1 (least absorbent)	2	3	4	5 (most absorbent)
Newspaper 					
Cotton Wool 					
Paper towel 					
Towel 					
Material the children decide					

I predict:

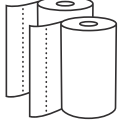
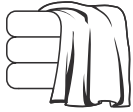
The most absorbent material will be

The least absorbent material will be



Our Predictions: Softness

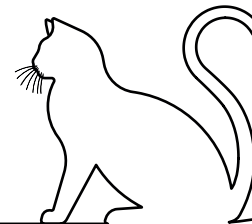
Put a tick in the column for each material to show how soft you **predict** it will be.

Material	1 (least soft)	2	3	4	5 (softest)
Newspaper 					
Cotton Wool 					
Paper towel 					
Towel 					
Material the children decide					

I predict:

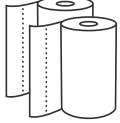
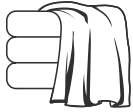
The softest material will be

The least soft material will be



Our Predictions: Strength

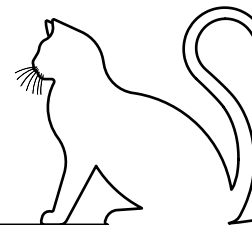
Put a tick in the column for each material to show how strong you **predict** it will be.

Material	1 (weakest)	2	3	4	5 (strongest)
Newspaper 					
Cotton Wool 					
Paper towel 					
Towel 					
Material the children decide					

I predict:

The strongest material will be

The least strong material will be



Everyday Materials: Keywords Flashcards



Absorbent

Predict

Prediction



Absorbent



Predict



Prediction

