

Choosing the right material for the job

materials

What you need: fabric sample (cotton scrap, roughly 10 cm square) · plastic sheet sample (cut from a clear document wallet, roughly 10 cm square) · kitchen foil square (roughly 10 cm square) · card square (roughly 10 cm square) · water in a jug · syringe or dropper · small weights for strength and rigidity testing (e.g. 100 g masses) · object brief cards (raincoat, lunchbox, school-bag strap)

Words to use

Property · Trade-off

Our question

Which material is the best all-rounder for our object's two jobs?

Our object, job 1 and job 2 (from the brief card)

I predict...because...

Two scores for each material (1 = poor, 3 = good)

Material	Score for job 1	Score for job 2
Cotton		
Plastic sheet		
Foil		
Card		

Which material did you recommend, and why?

What did you give up by choosing it – the trade-off?