

Nova's Material Mystery

Learning objective: To identify and name a variety of everyday materials and describe their simple physical properties.

Read the story about Nova the owl carefully. Then, answer the questions below to show what you have learned about materials.

Nova the owl was busy exploring her forest home. She wanted to build a new nest that would keep her dry when it rained. First, she found a shiny metal tin near the path. It was very hard and smooth, but it was too heavy for her to lift. Next, she found some wooden twigs. The twigs were rough and light, but Nova worried they might let the rain soak through. Finally, Nova found a piece of bright blue plastic. She tapped it with her beak and noticed it was smooth and waterproof. She knew the plastic would protect her from the rain. Nova also found a soft, fuzzy feather to make her nest feel cosy. She worked hard to put all these materials together. Max the monkey watched from a nearby tree and cheered for her. He liked how Nova tested the materials to see which ones were best. Nova was very happy with her new home. She had used wood, metal, plastic, and feathers to build a nest that was strong, dry, and comfortable for a clever owl.

Word bank: material · metal · plastic · wood · smooth · rough · hard · waterproof

1. Which three materials did Nova find before she found the feather? (2 marks)

2. Why did Nova choose the plastic for her nest? (2 marks)

3. Why was the metal tin a bad choice for Nova to use in her nest? (2 marks)

4. What does the word 'waterproof' mean in the story? (2 marks)

5. If you were building a nest, would you use the same materials as Nova? Why or why not? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Nova the owl sitting in her new nest. Make sure you label the materials she used, such as the wood, the plastic, and the soft feather.



Extension challenge: Go on a material hunt in your classroom or at home. Find three items made of plastic and three items made of wood. Write a sentence about why those materials were chosen for those objects.