

Preparing for the Unit

1. Curiosity Centre

The Curiosity Centre gives students an opportunity to investigate science ideas and tools through active participation, free exploration, and independent play. In this hands-on centre, students can explore objects related to the properties of objects and materials.

The Curiosity Centre could have

- a variety of objects, such as stuffed animals, dolls, blocks, beads, seashells, hard and soft balls, modelling clay, feathers, straw hat, wool hat, soft and hard cover books, mirror, pencils, crayons of varying sizes
- materials for construction, such as craft sticks, pieces of wood, construction paper, straws, pipe cleaners, string, glue, tape, elastic bands, nuts and bolts, stapler and staples, plastic ties, ribbon, shoelaces, paper clips, clothespins, wire, cotton, plastic string, thread, foam, flat cardboard, corrugated cardboard, ceramics, vinyl, plastic wrap, aluminum foil
- old books, magazines, and photographs of various objects and materials (e.g., office or school supply catalogue), paper, wallpaper, wrapping paper
- samples of fabric along with a variety of fasteners, such as yarn, Velcro, snaps, buttons
- recycling box materials, such as plastic bottles, Styrofoam trays, cereal boxes, plastic containers and lids, egg cartons, paper towel rolls, pop cans

Check the centre frequently to ensure it is well stocked with items. Invite students to contribute to the centre by bringing in items or photographs related to the properties of objects and materials. Remind students to tidy up the materials when they are finished.

Note: You may choose to display new items every few days.

2. Science Journals and Folders



Check that students are recording appropriately in their Science Journals. Continue to encourage them to add new questions or ideas to their journals as often as they like. Students can also record their findings and what they learned during investigations.

Remind students that they should store completed BLMs, design plans, drawings, stories, etc. that are related to the *Properties of Objects and Materials* unit in their Science Folders.

3. Word Wall



Add any relevant science terminology to the Word Wall throughout the unit. Urge students to use the terms as often as possible as they work through the unit.

4. I Wonder Wall



Build the I Wonder Wall throughout the unit by posting students' questions as they arise. Remind students to add questions they have as they explore the properties of objects and materials at the Curiosity Centre. Refer to the I Wonder Wall often and select questions that students may be ready to answer.

5. Reading Centre

Add texts (books, magazines, and photographs) relating to the properties of objects and materials to the Reading Centre. The titles in the Science Library will help start off a collection of books. Also refer to the list of texts pertaining to objects and materials in the Additional Resources section of this guide (pages 86–87).