

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 touch and explore objects related to materials and structures.

The Curiosity Centre could have

- a variety of natural and human-made materials for students to explore (except by taste), such as cotton balls, sandpaper, aluminum foil, plastic wrap, blocks of wood, Lego bricks, foam blocks, pieces of rubber, craft sticks, twigs, pieces of animal hide, feathers, stones, rocks, sheets of paper, newspapers, modelling clay, egg cartons, and pieces of fabric
- a variety of structures (both natural and human-made) for students to examine, such as a bird's nest, a wasps' nest, a wooden birdhouse or bat house, a dollhouse, Lego structures, craft-stick structures, plastic toys, an umbrella, a hard-boiled egg in its shell, a shoe, a bike helmet, a reusable shopping bag, a plastic cup, and various items from Indigenous culture such as actual or models of an inuksuk, an ulu (with a dull blade), a model komatik, mukluks, moccasins, or a snowshoe; models of traditional Innu or Mi'kmaq temporary structures could also be included

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 materials and structures. Remind students to tidy up the centre when they are finished.

Note: You may choose to display new items every few days or introduce items one at a time

throughout the unit. Allergy concerns must be considered before adding any item to the centre.

2. Science Journals and Folders



Check that students are recording appropriately in their Science Journals,

ensuring that they date each entry and record ideas using sketches with labels, lists of words, or sentences. Continue to encourage them to add new questions or ideas to their Journals as often as they like.

Remind students that they should store completed BLMs, drawings, graphs, etc. that are related to the *Materials and Structures* 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. 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 materials and structures to the Reading Centre. Or, you may choose to include these texts in the Curiosity Centre. The titles in the Science Library will help start off a collection of books. Also, refer to the lists of texts pertaining to *Materials and Structures* in the Additional Resources section of this guide (pages 74–75).