



Scientific Observation

Week 1 — Monday | Properties of Materials



Reading Time

Scientists are curious people who study the world around them. One of the most important things a scientist does is **observe**. To observe means to use your five senses — sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell — to gather information about something.

When you look at a rock, you might notice it is gray, smooth, and heavy. Those are all **observations**. A good scientist makes careful observations and records them so they can be shared with others.

Scientists often use tools to help them observe better. A **magnifying glass** helps you see small details. A **ruler** helps you measure size. A **balance scale** helps you compare weight.

There are two types of observations. A **qualitative observation** describes qualities like color, texture, or smell. A **quantitative observation** uses numbers to measure something, like length, weight, or temperature.



Reading Questions

1. What does it mean to observe?

2. Name the five senses scientists use to observe.

3. Give an example of a qualitative observation.

4. Why is it important for scientists to record their observations?

Vocabulary Grid

Write a definition or draw a picture for each word.

Observe	
Qualitative	
Quantitative	
Magnifying Glass	
Texture	
Material	

Material Sorting Chart

Sort these materials by their properties: wood, metal, plastic, glass, cloth, rubber

Hard	Wood, metal, glass
Soft	Cloth, rubber
Flexible	Cloth, rubber, plastic
Rigid	Metal, glass, wood
Absorbent	Wood, cloth
Waterproof	Metal, plastic, glass, rubber

Five Senses Observation Hunt

Find one object in your house for each sense and describe it.

Sight: I see a _____ and it looks _____

Hearing: I hear a _____ and it sounds _____

Touch: I touch a _____ and it feels _____

Smell: I smell a _____ and it smells _____

Taste: I taste a _____ and it tastes _____

Hard vs Soft Materials

Hard Materials	Soft Materials
1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____