



Absorbency in the Real World

Week 5 — Friday | Water & Materials



Absorbency Around Us

Absorbency and waterproof materials are used everywhere in our daily lives. Raincoats are made of waterproof materials to keep us dry. Towels are made of absorbent cotton to dry us off. Swimming pools have waterproof linings so water does not soak into the ground. Sponge cakes in the bakery are called that because they absorb and hold moisture, just like a kitchen sponge!

Engineers and scientists choose materials carefully based on absorbency. A tent needs to be waterproof so campers stay dry during a storm. A diaper needs to be very absorbent to keep babies comfortable. Even road engineers think about absorbency — some road surfaces absorb water which can make them slippery, so they use special waterproof coatings.



Review Questions

1. Name two things made of waterproof material and explain why.

2. Name two things made of absorbent material and explain why.

3. What is a fair test and why is it important in science?

4. Imagine you are designing a new product for use in the rain. What materials would you choose and why? Think about every part of your design.

 True or False

An absorbent material soaks up water.	<i>True / False</i>
A waterproof material absorbs water quickly.	<i>True / False</i>
Paper towels are more absorbent than plastic bags.	<i>True / False</i>
A fair test changes only one thing at a time.	<i>True / False</i>
Wood does not absorb any water.	<i>True / False</i>
Raincoats are made of waterproof materials.	<i>True / False</i>

 Best Material for the Job

Choose the best material for each item and explain why.

Item	Best Material	Why?
Umbrella	_____	_____
Kitchen Towel	_____	_____
Swimming Pool Lining	_____	_____
Spill Cleanup Kit	_____	_____

Design a Waterproof Invention

Create something that protects things from water. Label the materials you use.

My invention is called: _____

Waterproof materials I used and why:

Science Journal

This week I learned about:

My favorite activity was:

Something I still wonder about:

★ Week 5 Review

Sort these into absorbent or waterproof: sponge, plastic bag, cotton shirt, aluminum foil, paper towel, raincoat, towel, glass

Absorbent: _____

Waterproof: _____