



Absorbent Materials

Week 5 — Monday | What Makes Something Absorbent?

Reading Time

Absorbent materials soak up liquids like water. When a material absorbs water, the liquid soaks into tiny spaces inside the material. Think about a paper towel — when you spill water, the paper towel soaks it right up!

Not all materials are absorbent. Some materials are **waterproof** — water cannot soak into them. Plastic, metal, and glass are waterproof. Water just rolls right off!

Scientists test materials to see which ones are absorbent. They place drops of water on different materials and watch what happens. If the water soaks in, the material is absorbent. If the water beads up or rolls off, the material is waterproof.

Absorbent materials are useful for many things. Towels soak up water when you dry off. Sponges clean up spills. Plants absorb water from the ground through their roots.

Reading Questions

1. What does it mean when a material is absorbent?

2. Name two materials from the reading that are waterproof.

3. How can you tell if a material is absorbent or waterproof?

4. Why are absorbent materials useful in everyday life? Explain with an example.

Vocabulary Grid

Write a definition or draw a picture for each word.

Absorbent

Waterproof

Soak Up

Liquid

Absorb

Material

Absorbency Prediction Chart

Will water soak in or stay on top? Circle your prediction.

Material	Absorbent	Waterproof
Paper towel		
Plastic bag		
Sponge		
Aluminum foil		
Cotton cloth		
Glass jar		

Material Sort

Sort each item into the correct category: Sponge, rubber rain boots, cotton T-shirt, plastic bucket, paper napkin, glass window, towel, leather wallet, tissue, metal spoon

#	Absorbent	Waterproof
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

Draw It!

Draw water drops on each surface. Show what happens to the water.

Paper Towel (Absorbent)

Plastic Wrap (Waterproof)

Think About It

1. Why is it important to have absorbent towels in a bathroom?

2. Why are raincoats made from waterproof materials?

Around the House Water Hunt

Walk around your house and find objects. Sort them: will they soak up water, or will water roll right off?

Absorbent Objects

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Waterproof Objects

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Test Your Predictions

Pick one object from each column. Test with water drops and record.

Object	Guess	What Happened
	Absorbent / Waterproof	
	Absorbent / Waterproof	

This Week's Experiment Preview

Wednesday's Challenge: Which absorbent material soaks up the MOST water? You will test paper towels, sponges, cotton cloth, tissue paper, and a coffee filter.

Rank from most absorbent (1) to least absorbent (5):

Sponge: _____ Paper Towel: _____

Cotton Cloth: _____ Tissue Paper: _____

Coffee Filter: _____