

One More Idea: Every Material Has a Test

REVEAL AT REVIEW

10 MIN

MAGNET • BOWL OF WATER

The point

We learned the materials things are made of. Here is one more idea: you can identify a **mystery object** without being told — by **testing** it. Does a magnet grab it? Does it float? Does it bend, or snap? Scientists identify things by testing, not just by looking.

Do it

- 1 A grown-up hides 4–5 small objects in a sock (a coin, a cork, a spoon, a crayon, a marble).
- 2 Pull one out. Before naming its material, **run the tests**: magnet → water bowl → gentle bend.
- 3 Call the material from the **test results**, not the look.
- 4 Ask: “Which test told you the most?”

Say: “A scientist doesn’t guess what a thing is — they ask the thing questions. Tests are questions.”



What to watch for

- Kids predicting the test result *before* running it — that is a hypothesis
- The surprise that not all metals are grabbed by the magnet

A PEEK AHEAD

THAT MAGNET TEST IS STRANGER THAN IT LOOKS — THE MAGNET GRABS SOME METALS AND IGNORES OTHERS, AND ITS PULL REACHES RIGHT THROUGH YOUR HAND. THE MAGNET GETS A WHOLE LESSON OF ITS OWN, NEXT.