

## Lesson 2 – What are Observable Properties?

In the kitchen again let's look at observable properties such as colour, texture and flexibility.

- What are some items that are all made of the same material? (cutlery and saucepans, plates and cups)
- What colours can you see in the kitchen?
- What items are soft? What items are hard? Do any bend?
- Do any smell?

Note: Properties have unique qualities and these are also used to identify them. Important properties include mass, volume, density, lustre, colour, shape, hardness, odour, malleability, size, texture, elasticity, transparency, absorbency and taste. These are the different physical characteristics or attributes of materials and objects. The observable properties of a material can be due to what it is made of. In guiding your child to determine the properties of a material, the following may be of help:

- Texture - Is it rough or smooth?
- Hardness – Is it hard to dent or scratch the surface?
- Strength – Is it easy or hard to break?
- Density – Is it heavy or light given its size?
- Reflectivity – Is it dull or shiny?
- Transparency – Does it let the light through?
- Opacity – Can you see through it?
- Flexibility – Is it easy to bend or is it stiff?
- Elasticity – Can you bend or stretch it? Does it then go back to its original shape?

*Complementary Resources*

[Hunting for Properties](#)

[Wood, Water and Properties](#)

[The Science of Lunch](#)

Sample Year 1 – Kitchen Chemistry © My Homeschool 2018