Material Detectives

Students examine classroom items to classify materials and compare weight.

P.K.5A.2 "Describe and compare the properties of different materials (e.g., wood, plastic, metal, cloth, paper) and classify these materials by their observable characteristics (visual, aural..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

Teacher: this page is run aloud. The script and answers are on the guide page.

1 FIND MATERIALS

a	paper	wood	metal
b	wood	paper	metal
c	paper	metal	wood

2 FEEL WEIGHT

a	book	clip	pencil
b	pencil	book	clip

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HOW TO RUN THIS PAGE

Set out a sharpened pencil, a plain paper clip, and a book for each pair of students. Read the prompts aloud as students look at, touch, and lift the items before marking their answers.

Students never read directions on this sheet. Read each part's script aloud, then each prompt, giving think time before students mark.

PART 1 · FIND MATERIALS

SAY "Look closely at your pencil, paper clip, and a page in your book. Touch each one. I will read the choices in each row."

ROW	SAY	STUDENTS CIRCLE
a	The choices are paper, wood, and metal. Look at the part around the dark tip of your sharpened pencil. Which material do you see there? Circle it.	**wood**
b	The choices are wood, paper, and metal. Look at your paper clip. Which material is it made of? Circle it.	**metal**
c	The choices are paper, metal, and wood. Touch a page in your book. Which material is the page made of? Circle it.	**paper**

PART 2 · FEEL WEIGHT

SAY "Pick up your book, pencil, and paper clip one at a time. Feel how heavy each one is. I will read the choices in each row."

ROW	SAY	STUDENTS CIRCLE
a	The choices are book, clip, and pencil. Which one feels heaviest? Circle it.	**book**
b	The choices are pencil, book, and clip. Which one feels lightest? Circle it.	**clip**

WHAT TO ACCEPT

In order, accept wood, metal, paper, book, and clip. Check that students examine and lift the items rather than choosing from the printed words alone.