

Lesson 4

Sorting Surprise

Prep
Science



Duration:
40 minutes



Lesson Focus:

Classifying objects and materials using observable properties.



Resources



Lesson Story YouTube: Sorting Surprise from (Banjo Education Support YouTube Channel.)



Collection of safe mixed objects/material samples



Sorting hoops/trays or classification mats



Student Sorting Surprise worksheet



Pencils

Resource Purpose

The story models the idea that objects can be sorted in different valid ways. Students physically sort a collection, explain their rule and then represent one classification on the worksheet.

Success Criteria

- ✓ I can choose a property for sorting.
- ✓ I can classify objects into groups.
- ✓ I can explain the rule I used.

Learning Intention



We are learning to sort and classify objects using observable properties.



Key Vocabulary

sort • classify • group • property • material • same • different • colour • texture • shape

40-Minute Lesson Sequence

Time	Lesson Stage	Teacher Actions	Student Actions
0–5 min	Engage / Hook	Place three contrasting objects together and ask: Which two belong together? Accept different evidence-based answers.	Observe, predict and share existing ideas.
5–13 min	Lesson Story	Play/watch Sorting Surprise. Pause when sorting decisions arise and ask students to predict the rule.	Watch, listen, respond to prompts and make predictions.
13–18 min	Explicit Teaching	Model one collection sorted first by material and then by another property. Emphasise that the sorting rule must be clear.	Identify the key scientific idea and practise vocabulary.
18–28 min	Hands-On Activity	Pairs sort mixed objects using a chosen observable property, explain the rule, then re-sort the same objects using a different rule.	Investigate collaboratively and use observations as evidence.
28–35 min	Worksheet Task	Students record one sorting rule and draw/place examples in the correct groups.	Record the most important evidence from the activity.
35–38 min	Analyse & Discuss	Compare different classifications. Ask why the same object may move groups when the rule changes.	Share findings, compare ideas and justify responses.
38–39 min	I Wonder...	How many different ways could we classify the same collection?	Develop or discuss a scientific question.
39–40 min	Exit Ticket	State your sorting rule and give one object that belongs in a group.	Give one individual evidence-based response.



Explicit Teaching

Scientific Idea: Scientists classify objects by using observable properties and a clear sorting rule.

Board Model:

OBSERVE

CHOOSE
PROPERTY

SORT

EXPLAIN
RULE



Student Investigation

Story → hands-on activity → worksheet evidence. Students first encounter the scientific idea through the lesson story, then apply it with real objects/materials, and finally record only the key evidence needed to show their understanding.

Investigation Prompt:

What does our evidence tell us?



Teacher Questioning

- What do you notice?
- What evidence supports your idea?
- What is the same? What is different?
- Which science word describes this?
- How do you know?
- What happened when you tested it?



Expected Big Idea

Scientists classify objects by using observable properties and a clear sorting rule.



Curriculum Links – Prep (AC v9)

AC9SFU03	Recognise that objects can be composed of different materials and describe their observable properties.
AC9SFH01	Explore how people use observations and questions to learn about the natural world.
AC9SFI01	Pose questions and make predictions based on experiences.
AC9SFI02	Engage in explorations safely and make observations using the senses.
AC9SFI03	Represent observations using provided structures and identify patterns with guidance.
AC9SFI05	Share questions, predictions, observations and ideas with others.

Name: _____



LESSON 4

Mia and Noah's Sorting Surprise

Look at each object carefully.
Decide what it is made from.
Then colour it using the colour code above.



Science Detectives look carefully
at objects and sort them in
different ways.

Colour the objects below
using the colour code:

	Metal	Blue
	Wood	Yellow
	Plastic	Purple
	Natural	Green



Spoon



Leaf



Rock



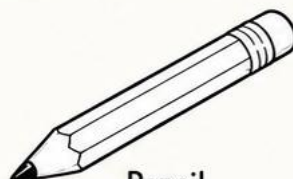
Shell



Coin



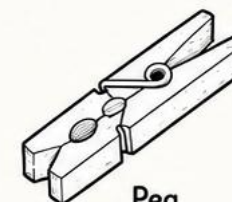
Toy



Pencil



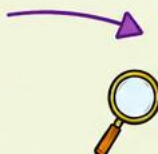
Bottle lid



Peg

Can you think of another
object for each group?

Draw your own
ideas below!



Metal

Wood

Plastic

Natural

