Materials Investigation: Squash

We can change the shapes of some materials by squashing them. We can change the shape by pushing the material allowing us to make them thinner or flatter, we could even squash some materials into other shapes.

Today we are going to be investigating which material we can change the shape of by squashing. Discuss with an adult which materials you think can and cannot change their shape when they are squashed. How do you think we can investigate this? In order to conduct our investigation, you need different types of materials to compare. For this experiment you will need: stone, sponge, wood, plastic, cloth and wool.

If you do not have some of the materials don’t worry, you can use different materials instead, just write them down yourself.

When conducting our investigation pick up the object you are going to test and gently begin squashing the object to see if it changes shape. Record in the table below whether the object squashes or not.

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| **Material** | **Object** | **Does squash** | **Doesn’t squash** |
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Challenge – Can you find some materials that are squashy but that then bounce back to be the same shape as they were before you squashed them?