UNIT: FIRST AID

Mystery Material Match!

GOAL:

Investigate mystery materials from a first aid kit and figure out which one is best for which job—cleaning, covering, or sticking! You’ll use your senses and tools to compare texture, absorbency, and stickiness.

Materials:

* Cotton ball
* Gauze pad
* Alcohol wipe (dry/unused)
* First aid tape
* Fabric adhesive bandage
* Magnifying glass
* Tweezers
* Water dropper
* Paper towel (for drying off)

STUDENT DIRECTIONS:

1. **Set up your station:**  
   Place all five mystery materials in front of you. Use the tweezers to handle them if needed.
2. **Observe each material’s texture:**
   * Use your **hands** and the **magnifying glass**.
   * Is it soft? Scratchy? Smooth? Sticky?
   * Record your texture description in the chart.
3. **Test water absorbency:**
   * Use the **water dropper** to place 1–2 drops of water on each material.
   * Watch what happens—does it soak in quickly, slowly, or not at all?
   * Mark “Yes” or “No” for water absorbency in your chart.
4. **Match each material to a first aid job:**  
   Think like a scientist! Ask yourself:
   * Which one is best for cleaning a cut?
   * Which one sticks and stays in place?
   * Which one covers or protects the wound?
5. **Complete your chart below.**  
   Be ready to share your choices and your reasoning!

### **Record It:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Material** | **Texture (what does it feel/look like?)** | **Absorbs Water?** | **Best Job in First Aid?** |
| Cotton Ball |  | ☐ Yes ☐ No |  |
| Gauze |  | ☐ Yes ☐ No |  |
| Alcohol Wipe (dry) |  | ☐ Yes ☐ No |  |
| Tape |  | ☐ Yes ☐ No |  |
| Fabric Bandage |  | ☐ Yes ☐ No |  |

**Think & Reflect:**

* What clues helped you figure out what each material is best used for?  
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* Why is it important for first aid materials to have different properties?

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**Wrap-Up Reflection:**

* Which bandage or material would you choose in a real emergency? Why?  
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* What happens when you cool a “burn”? Can all changes be undone?  
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* What makes a first aid material good for the job?  
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Standards Alignment

NGSS: 5-PS1-3 STEL: STEL 1A, STEL 4A, STEL 7A, STEL 8A CCSS: CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.5.MD.A.1, CCSS.MATH.PRACTICE.MP2, CCSS.MATH.PRACTICE.MP5, CCSS.MATH.PRACTICE.MP6