

Activity 1.2 Properties of Matter: Color and Texture

Introduction

In order to learn about the world around us, we need to be able to describe what we see, feel, taste, hear, or smell. Color and texture are two properties we can use to describe what we see and feel.

Color is one way that objects appear different (brown, red, yellow, blue, etc.) because of the light that the object reflects.

Texture is the way something feels when we touch it with our skin. It might feel scratchy, soft, bumpy, rough, smooth, or squishy.

What are we describing? Anything that has mass and takes up space is called **matter**.

Things that are matter:

- A bicycle
- Fruit
- Water
- Rope
- You!

Things that are **not** matter:

- Fire
- Light
- Cold
- Shadow
- Sound

In this activity you will describe the color and texture on one example of matter – a monster truck.

Equipment

- 1 Monster Truck toy per pair of students
- Materials Science: Properties of Matter Launch Log
- Crayons or colored pencils

Procedure

1. Look at the Monster Truck and think about these questions:
 - What colors do you see?
 - How does it feel?
 - What texture is the body of the truck?
 - What texture are the tires?
2. In your Launch Log, draw and color your truck.
3. Trade trucks with another group and think about these questions:

- How is this truck different?
 - How is this truck the same?
4. Think about how all the trucks in the room should be grouped.
 5. Follow your teacher's directions to group the trucks together.

Conclusion Questions

Answer the following questions in your Launch Log.

1. What is matter?

2. Can you name three examples of matter?

3. Think about your favorite toy. Draw a sketch of your object and describe its texture and color.