

HANDS-ON LAB SKILLS/SCIENCE INQUIRY

Science Inquiry

Scientists use MANY different tools while they are observing and conducting experiments.

Here are some tools scientists use:

Scientists use a **RULER** to measure the length of an object that is small, like a paper clip.



This paper

Scientists
there is.

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a liquid



This measuring cup is filled with 5 ounces of water.

Scientists use a **CLOCK** to tell the time and to measure how long it takes to do something.

This clock shows scientists they are beginning their experiment at 9:00.



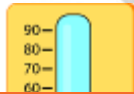
Scientists use a **HAND LENS** or magnifying glass to see something really close.



Scientists are able to see the tiny veins on a leaf if they are looking through a hand lens.

Scientists use a **THERMOMETER** to measure the temperature outside and inside.

This thermometer shows that it is 10°C outside.

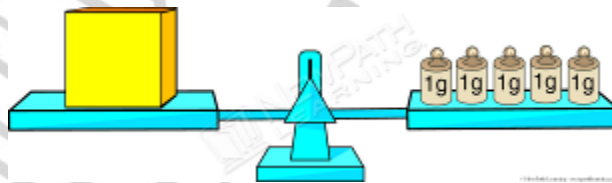


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Scientists use a **BALANCE** to measure the weight of an object. This balance shows that this block weighs 5 grams.

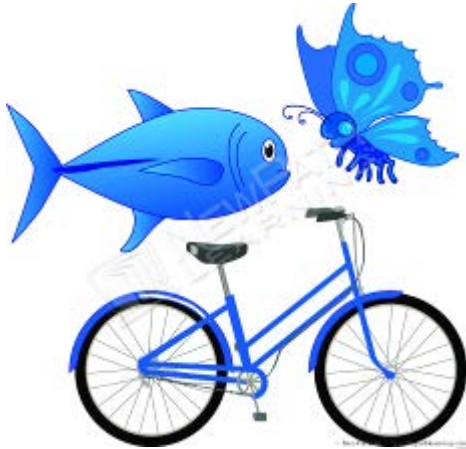


Sorting Objects

Scientists often put objects into piles or groups based on their **color, shape, texture, size and weight**.

When a scientist puts objects in certain groups, it is called **sorting**. Scientists sort objects when they are observing and comparing objects. Scientists sometimes sort objects based on their **COLOR**.

These objects are sorted based on their **COLOR**:



Scientists sometimes sort objects based on their **SHAPE**.
These objects are sorted based on their **SHAPE**.



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Scientists sometimes sort objects based on their **TEXTURE**.

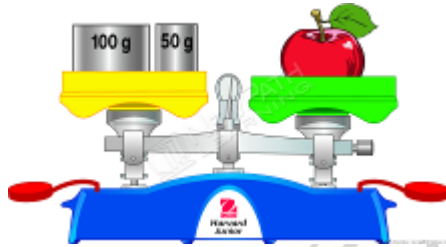
Texture is the way an object feels.

Scientists may put objects that feel rough in one pile and objects that feel smooth in another pile. These objects are all soft to the touch.



Scientists sometimes sort objects based on their **SIZE** – how large or small the objects are.

Scientists also sort objects based on their **WEIGHT**. Scientists use a balance to weigh objects before sorting those objects based on their weight.




Safety in Science

Here are some important safety rules to follow when doing an experiment:

- ✓ **L**isten to your teacher before you begin your experiment.
- ✓ **A**ll equipment should be used correctly. When you are finished, return it to the correct place.
- ✓ **N**o eating or drinking in the science lab.
- ✓ **U**se all equipment **carefully**.
- ✓ If you spill anything - **clean** the spill up quickly.
- ✓ **W**ash your hands very well when you are finished.

If you have any questions during your experiment, **ask** your **teacher** right away!

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