

Bend, Stretch and Squash

Some objects can be changed by bending, stretching, squashing or squeezing them. Can you find any objects made from each of these materials, which can be changed by bending, stretching, squashing or squeezing? Can you find another object which cannot be changed? Talk to your helper about why one can be changed but one cannot.

Material	Objects	Can it be changed?	Why/why not?
plastic			
wood			
rubber			
fabric			
glass			
clay			

Challenge: Find out which of your objects can go back to the way they were after being twisted or stretched, and which stay in their new shape.

Further challenge: Make some biscuit dough or pastry with your helper. How do the properties of the dough or pastry change when it is baked?

Note for parents: Before starting this activity, have some of the following items to hand: playdough, pastry, a plastic bag, something made from fabric, a rubber band, a paper clip, sawdust/wood shavings/pencil shavings or a small twig or stick.