



The aims of these sheets are to give children practice in:

- *classification*
- *making general statements*

Prepare a box full of different objects (example: various toys; pencil case full of writing equipment; box of useful kitchen items such as pegs, utensils; office items such as paper clips and staples; a handbag containing keys, coins, a credit card, a pair of spectacles and so on).

The children should report back to each other, giving their views on the advantages and disadvantages of each material. The discussion should be broadened to consider more general environmental issues:

- is all plastic non-biodegradable?
- can all metal be recycled?
- does using objects made of wood threaten the woods and forests of the world?

You can introduce the concept of 'sustainable use' of materials. See Glossary.



ACTIVITY 1

More able children could choose a particular item of furniture, usually or originally made from wood, and plan and carry out their own independent research into how the design and the materials used have changed over time or can vary from country to country. They could find out about the Age of Oak (1000–1650), the Age of Walnut (1650–1750) and the Age of Mahogany (1750–1900).

