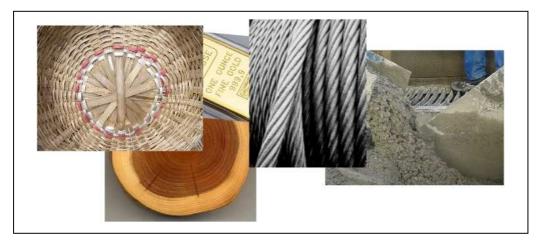# GROUPING AND CLASSIFYING MATERIALS
Fact Sheet

- **Materials are all around us;** they can be natural, like wood, or artificial, like paper. We use them to make all sorts of objects and machines.
- **Natural materials** can be found in nature, and they can be of animal, mineral, or vegetal origin. Wool, cotton, and slate are some examples.
- **Artificial materials** are natural materials that have been transformed by people. Plastic, concrete, and steel are some examples.
- The **main properties** of materials are: flexibility –fabric-, elasticity –hair band-, strength –iron-, hardness –diamond-, fragility -porcelain-, absorbency –paper towel-, waterproof – plastic-, and conductivity. Materials can also be magnetic.
- **A conductor** is a material that allows electricity and heat to pass through it easily. Metal and water are good conductors.
- **An insulator** is a material that does not allow electricity or heat to pass through it easily. Wood and plastic are good insulators.
- **We make objects out of different materials, depending on their properties.** For example, we make wellington boots out of rubber and plastic because these materials are flexible and waterproof. We make the handle of a frying pan out of wood because this material is a good insulator.