

The Science Educator at Work

ACTIVITY SHEET: ARE THESE EVERYDAY OBJECTS MADE OF METALS OR NONMETALS?

What to do:

The table below lists 15 everyday objects. You may have seen many of these at home or in school. Your teacher may also have displayed some of these objects or the materials they are made up of in the classroom.

Look closely at each object and think about the material it is made of. You can observe the objects in the classroom display to notice their properties (such as hardness, shine, or malleability).



The table has three categories: Metals, Nonmetals, and Neither. Using what you observe and what you already know, tick all the categories that you think apply to each object. Use the last column of the table to share reasons for your classification.



	Objects	Metals	Nonmetals	Neither	Reasons for your classification
1	Piece of hard plastic				
2	Sulphur crystals				
3	Graphite rod from a pencil				
4	Some coins				
5	Piece of marble				
6	Gold ring or earring				





	Objects	Metals	Nonmetals	Neither	Reasons for your classification
7	Steel spoon				
8	Piece of brick				
9	Mercury thermometer				
10	Aluminium foil				
11	Wooden chair or table				
12	Iron rod				
13	Diamond				
14	Chalk				
15	Green board				

Think about and discuss:

- Did you notice any properties that many metals share? Are there any that all metals have in common?
- Did you notice any properties that many nonmetals share? Are there any that all nonmetals have in common?
- Did any material surprise you by behaving like both a metal and a nonmetal? Explain what you observed. How did you classify these materials?
- Did you find any materials that did not behave like metals or nonmetals? What did you notice about them? How did you classify them?
- Can you think of some ways of testing and verifying your classification?

