

What's the Matter?

Materials Trail

Information for Teachers (self-led visits)

Introduction

What's the Matter? is a new self-led trail at the Yorkshire Museum, aimed at Key Stage 2 pupils.

- The trail allows pupils to explore and investigate the museum displays, focusing on materials and their properties
- Each of the activity sheets is based around a different gallery area, such as Romans, Vikings, Pottery
- Each sheet contains tasks relating to the objects on display, encouraging children to *observe, analyse* and *consider evidence*
- The activity sheets can be completed in any order. If groups do not have time to complete all sheets this should not affect the quality of their learning experience
- Teachers may wish to concentrate on some areas and leave others out completely, according to individual learning objectives

Timings and Organisation

- There are five activity sheets. Please photocopy and bring as many as you need for your class.
- Each activity sheet should take about 10 minutes to complete
- We recommend you allow at least 1 hour for your visit
- The best way to work on the trail is to split the class into smaller groups and allow them to rotate around the activities as some galleries are too small for a whole class
- Each group must be accompanied by an adult at all times

National Curriculum Links

SC1 Scientific Enquiry

SC3 Materials and their properties

- Grouping and classifying materials
- Changing materials

QCA Links – Science

- Unit 1C Sorting and using materials
- Unit 2D Grouping and changing materials
- Unit 3C Characteristics of materials
- Unit 6D Reversible and irreversible changes

Follow up activities

Create a museum in your classroom!

Challenge your class to curate an interactive science exhibition in your classroom using ideas they have learnt from the Yorkshire museum. The theme could be materials and the displays could teach about different areas of science. This would create many cross curricular links. For example:

Literacy: leaflets and posters to advertise the museum, newspaper/TV/radio reports.

There are lots of opportunities for drama and speaking and listening exercises too.

Numeracy: problem solving involving budgets, visitor numbers and the gift shop.

Also creating a scale plan of the museum.

Art and DT : creating the displays and artefacts and objects to sell in the gift shop.

Science : making a science museum with interactive activities for the visitors to take part in.

ICT : If you have a computer or an interactive whiteboard in the classroom this could be used as one the activities as part of the science museum.

This trail links to the workshop ‘What’s the Matter? This is available for school bookings.

For further information on this or any school bookings for the York Museums Trust, please call 01904 650333.



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www.york.yorkshire.museum

The Yorkshire Museum



What's the Matter?

Materials Trail
Key Stage Two



A self-led museum
activity pack for teachers



What's the Matter? - Romans

Look around the displays of Roman objects found in York.

➤ **What materials can you find in the displays?**

Fill in the table with sketches of Roman objects made of **four different materials** and say if they are damaged or not...

Material = C l a y	Material = B o n e
Is it damaged?	Is it damaged?
Material = _____	Material = _____
Is it damaged?	Is it damaged?

Can you find...

- **A natural material you would expect to have rotted in the ground but it's actually been preserved?**

Clue – it belonged to a Roman girl _____

- **A piece of jewellery made of black Jet?**

It is a _____

Jet is the fossilised remains of Monkey Puzzle trees. There is one in the Museum Gardens, see if you can spot it before you leave!



What's the Matter? – Metals

Continue to walk through the Roman galleries. A lot of objects in this room are made of different **metals**.

What metals were roman coins made of?

Can you find the '**Coppergate Helmet**'.

It was found in York and was made one thousand years ago!
It is in very good condition for something so old.

- **If the helmet was made of wood and buried in the ground for years, what would have happened to it?**
-

- **Can you find any weapons or tools made of metal?
Sketch one object you have found.**



- **Why was metal like iron used for weapons and tools?**
-

Look for the **Gilling Sword** – it has a Blue Peter badge next to it.
The handle looks gold but it is made partly of silver, a kind of metal.

- **Make a list of all the metals you can see or think of.**
-

Look around the room to find the **Middleham Jewel and ring**.

* They are in a case at the back, round a corner!

- **Why are the jewel and the ring so important?**
-



What's the Matter? - Vikings

Can you find the model of part of a Viking boat?

Now see if you can find a case containing a **silk cap** nearby.

- **Why do you think this is a very precious object?**

Now continue down the stairs.

Viking Weaving

Look at the wooden replica loom.

Vikings would have used looms like this to weave cloth.

Some cloth made by the Vikings was dyed different colours.

- **What could the Vikings have used to colour the wool?**

The Vikings living in York were skilled craftspeople.

They used materials from animals to make useful objects.

- **What materials can you find in the Viking cases that came from animals?**

Look at the cases of objects.

- **Sketch an object that shows Vikings...**

...liked to have neat hair

...protected their feet



The Vestibule – St. Mary’s Abbey

St Mary’s Abbey was built nearly one thousand years ago, in the 11th Century. The museum has been built around some of the ruins!

Before you go down into the Vestibule, look for a case with Abbey floor tiles in.

- **Design your own floor tile to fill the box...**



Walk down to the **Vestibule**.

This was the entrance to the **Chapter House**, where the monks held meetings.

- **Touch the stone pillars. What do they feel like?**

- **Why is stone good for building with?**

- **What other materials could you make buildings out of?**

* Before you leave, look at other buildings in the gardens for clues!

- **In the Vestibule, have a look for signs of damage, especially on the statues of people**

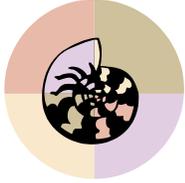
Looking Good, Feeling Strong!

The stone has been carefully carved so the Abbey looks good as well as being strong. **Why is an arch a very strong shape?**

- **Look at the detail on the arches. Sketch some of it...**



* Some old stones from the Abbey have been used to repair other buildings in York. You can see some in the Museum Garden walls!



What's the Matter? – Hunters and Hunted

The objects in this gallery are **fossils**. Fossils are millions of years old. They were once part of living creatures.

When humans and animals die and are buried in the ground, their skeleton or shell survives the longest.

- **Why do you think this is?**

There are two kinds of fossils

- Fossils where the bone has turned into rock but still looks the same
- Fossils where the creature leaves a print in the rock

- **Can you see one of each kind of fossil in the displays?**

- **Draw your finds in the boxes below**

Bone or shell has turned to rock	Creature has left a print in rock

Look closely at and touch the models of creatures and shells around the room

- **What words can you use to describe how they feel?**

Prehistoric Pool!

- **Can you spot the droppings of one of the large creatures?**

- **Why are droppings like this useful for scientists to study?**
