



All-weather gift wrap

Background knowledge

A material that soaks up water is said to be *absorbent*. A material that resists water or keeps water away is said to be *waterproof*. Rain boots are made of a plastic that is *waterproof*. Tissues are made of *absorbent* paper.

Science activity

Ling and Tyler wanted to find a material in which to wrap a present that was going to be mailed to a friend in another state. The present was a box of taffy, which would be ruined if it got wet. They needed to use a waterproof wrapping, so they decided to perform a test. First, they stretched five different materials over see-through containers. They then poured an equal amount of water onto each material.

Cotton fabric



Metal screen



Aluminum kitchen foil



Polyethylene



Newspaper



Look carefully at the pictures above. Which materials would Ling and Tyler use to wrap their present? Explain.

Science investigation

Different types of wrap are used to keep food fresh. Design and conduct an experiment to determine which type is most waterproof.

