



Sponge it up

Background knowledge

Some materials, such as sponge, absorb water very well. These materials have spaces in which the water can be held. When a sponge is squeezed, the water in its small holes is forced out. There are many different kinds of sponges. Some sponges are natural, such as the sponge animals that live in the ocean. Most sponges purchased for home use are made in a factory. Some types of sponges can hold more water than others.

Science activity

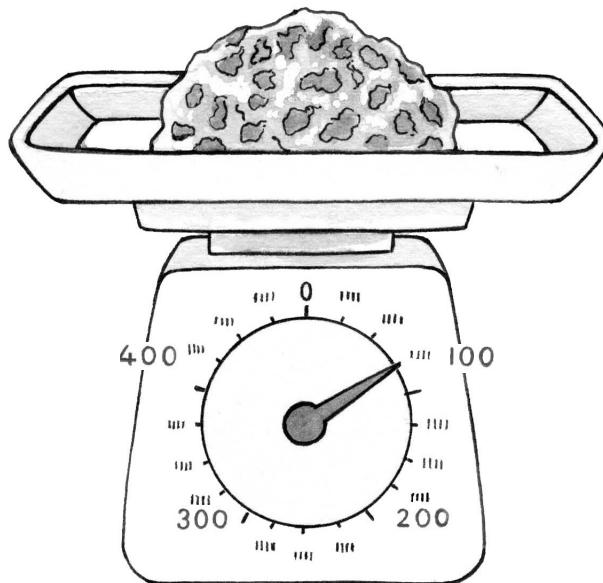
Here are the results of some tests carried out on sponges. The chart shows the mass of the sponge when it is dry and its mass after being placed in water for one minute.

Type of sponge	Dry mass	Wet mass
Kitchen sponge	25 g	58 g
Bathroom sponge	45 g	75 g
Natural sponge	12 g	24 g
Mop sponge	20 g	75 g



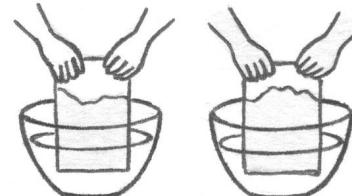
Which sponge soaks up the most water? Explain.

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Science investigation

Design and conduct an experiment to determine which paper towel is the most absorbent. Have an adult help you obtain samples of different types of paper towels.



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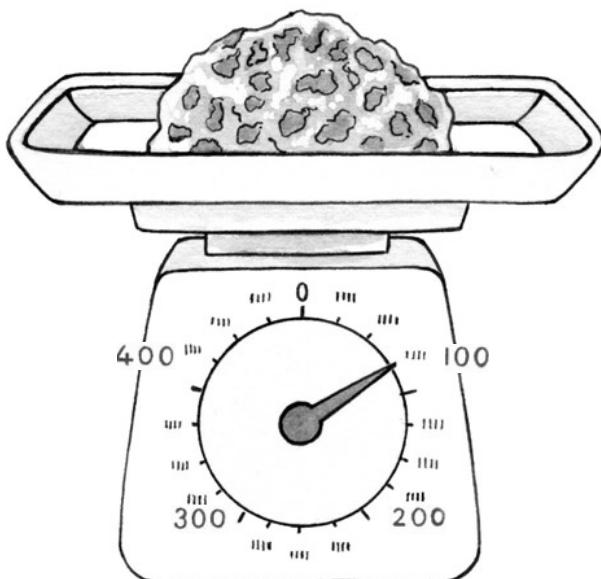
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Which sponge soaks up the most water? Explain.
The mop sponge, because it had the greatest increase in mass.



Science investigation

For the investigation, you could suggest that the young investigator compare store brands of paper towels with commercial brands.

