



Grade 1 Newsletter – Our Fourth Unit of Inquiry

What's It Made Of?

ORGANIZING THEME: How We Share the Planet

DESCRIPTION: An inquiry into rights and responsibilities in the struggle to share finite resources with other people and with other living things; communities and the relationships within and between them; access to equal opportunities; peace and conflict resolution.

SUBJECT FOCUS: This unit is linked to the Ontario Curriculum Science expectations from the strand *Understanding Structures and Mechanisms: Materials, Objects and Everyday Structures*.

CENTRAL IDEA:

The Earth provides us with diverse resources that we need to use in a responsible way.

INQUIRY INTO:

- Natural resources
- Properties of materials
- How properties of materials determine their purpose
- Using materials in a responsible way

SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTIVITIES AT HOME THAT WILL SUPPORT OUR UNIT:

- Have conversations about what different household objects are made of, and why this material makes sense based on the object's purpose (e.g. scissors have metal blades that are sharp; the handles are made of plastic that can be held on to comfortably).
- Show your daughter how your family disposes of things you no longer need (garbage, recycling, compost, donation).
- Talk about where different materials come from