

Transcript: Understanding key vocabulary in a particular curriculum context

Context: Shared reading in science

- **Teacher:** When I read this task, a couple of the words jump out at me. It asks you to name the properties of the material. I wonder what it means by the words "properties" and "material".
- **Student 1:** Property is something that belongs to you, like a car or a telly.
- **Student 2:** Yeah, but it can also mean the land that a house is built on.
- **Teacher:** You're both correct but remember how we've talked before about some words having double meanings or more than one meaning. Property does mean those two things, but in this context the word "properties" means something else. In science, properties refers to the way things behave or look, for example, a metal could be shiny, could melt, or could be bent easily. Those are all properties of that particular metal. What about the word "material"? Is the task talking about a fabric like cotton or silk?
- **Student 2:** It could be, but I think it means anything that you can make something out of, not just fabric. It could be metal, wood, rock, or paper.
- **Teacher:** Yeah, I think you're right. In science, materials include solids, gases, and liquids.