

Science - Material Properties



Use the table of results to answer questions about the floating properties of different materials.

Material floated on water	Amount of material floating below surface of water (cm)
Wood - Ash	2.2
Wood - Balsa	0.3
Plastic - Acrylic	3.8
Plastic - Polystyrene	0.1
Brass	sank
Rubber	4.7

1. Which material was most buoyant?

2. Which material was least buoyant?

3. Which two materials had the most similar measurements?

_____ and _____

4. Can you think of a reason why the Balsa wood was more buoyant than the Ash?

5. Name three other materials that float.

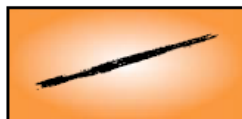
_____, _____ and _____

Can you choose a material to make the hull of a model boat? It must be buoyant and hard-wearing. These materials have been scratched with a nail to test their hardness:

Brass:



Ash:



Polystyrene:



Using the results of the buoyancy test and the hardness test, choose a material to make the hull of a model boat. Give reasons for your choice.

