

# ACTIVITY SUMMARIES—QUARTER 1

## ACTIVITY 1—What Are Properties?

Students compare and contrast various objects and gain experience describing objects by their attributes.

## ACTIVITY 2—Describing Properties

Students learn that they can describe objects according to certain common properties. The purpose of this activity is to build students' vocabulary for describing various properties, including color, shape, size, and mass.

## ACTIVITY 3—Size and Color

Students are challenged to sort a collection of assorted squares by size and color. Students learn that all members of a group must have a shared property. When students, as a class, explain how they sorted their squares, they begin to understand that objects can be grouped in many different ways.

## ACTIVITY 4—Mass

Students sort objects by relative mass. Using an equal-arm balance, they compare the relative masses of a variety of objects and then arrange these objects according to increasing mass.

## ACTIVITY 5—Magnetism

Students observe that some objects are attracted to a magnet while others are not. They predict which will be attracted to a magnet and then test their predictions. They then classify the objects as magnetic or not magnetic.

## ACTIVITIES 6 & 7—Properties of Solids

Students are introduced to the properties of solids. After examining a wood block, students draw up a list of properties that describe the block. Students test the relative hardness of an assortment of solid objects and then infer the properties of solids in general.

## ACTIVITY 8—Properties of Liquids

Students are introduced to the properties of liquids. After examining water, students identify some of its properties and then infer the properties of liquids in general.

## ACTIVITY 9—Properties of Gases

Students learn that although they cannot see air, it is all around them. They experiment with air and list some of its properties. Using this list, students infer the properties of gases in general.

## ACTIVITY 10—Using a Ruler

Students are introduced to measurement of length in standard common units of inches and metric units of millimeters and centimeters. They use a simple ruler marked with both common and metric units to measure the lengths of ordinary objects.