

Friction

This activity of filling a matrix has proved very popular with children and a useful prequel to those experiments of sliding your trainers down a piece of wood. This activity is a good way to discover that English does not have a word to describe "not-friction".



Quick Look!

Instructions for pupils

Friction is sometimes helpful and sometimes not helpful at all.

A lot of friction can sometimes be useful in our everyday lives, but at other times it can be a nuisance and not helpful at all. On the other hand, when friction is reduced, this can sometimes be very useful, but not always!

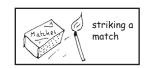
You have a set of cards with examples of times when there is a lot of friction about and times when there is not much. Sort them first into two groups:

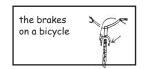
A LOT OF FRICTION

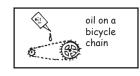
FRICTION REDUCED

Now take the cards and fit them on the matrix. They should fit exactly. Can you think of some more examples of friction making our lives easier or more difficult. You have a blank set of cards to fill in. Work together to make a different set of cards.

Remember! Friction tries to stop things from moving.

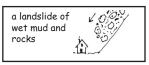






A lot of friction Useful Not useful		Not much friction. Useful Not useful	
	a flat and punctured tyre		







http://www.collaborativelearning.org/qlfriction.pdf