Approach:
Focus:
Resources:

Approach:
Sorting

Year: 4 & 8

Classification

3 bags, nail, balloon, coin [bag 1: rubber band, plasticine, foam cube;
bag 2: metal spoon, magnet, metal paper ring; bag 3: stone, wooden cube, plastic counter]

y8

Questions / instructions:

In this activity you will be looking at some groups of things and deciding why they have been grouped together. Then you will be adding some more things to the groups. You can touch the things.

Place objects from bag 1 on top of the bag.



1. What is something the same about the things in this group?

soft/flexible

69

70

Place objects from bag 2 on top of the bag.



2. What is something the same about the things in this group?

hard 13 metal 69

14

84

38

magnetic metal 49

Place objects from bag 3 on top of the bag.



3. What is something the same about the things in this group?

51 0

not metal 0 not magnetic metal 0

hard

Now I would like you to put one of these things into each of the groups.

Choose a thing that fits best into each group.

Hand out nail, balloon and coin.



4. Where would you put the balloon?	•		
Allow time.	bag 1	94	96
5. Why did you put it there?	soft/flexible	69	68
6. Where would you put the nail?			
Allow time.	bag 2	84	84
7. Why did you put it there?	hard	11	7
7. Why did you put it there?	hard metal	11 52	7 63
7. Why did you put it there?			

8. Where would you put the coin?

Allow time.	bag 3	70	6
9. Why did you put it there?	hard	38	3
ı	not magnetic	9	!

Is there anything you would like to change?

Allow time.

10. Why did you change that?

[some students had not included "magnetic" as a factor for bag 2 and needed to change that]

Total score:	11–16	8	6
	9–10	28	29
	7–8	30	26
	5–6	18	23
	3–4	10	12
	0–2	6	4

Commentary:

Year 8 students performed no better than year 4 students on this task.