

Table 1 Possible properties and descriptions of each category

Metal	Ceramic/Glass	Polymer	Composite
Shiny (luster)	Brittle	Flexible	Combination of two or more materials
Malleable (bendable)	Dull (not lustrous)	Lightweight (low density)	Often lightweight and strong
Ductile	Hard	Low melt temperatures	
Good conductors (feel cold)	Poor conductors (insulators)	Poor conductors (insulators)	
Heavy (dense)	High melt temperatures	Some are stretchable (rubbery)	
Can't see through them (opaque)	Can see through glass (transparent)	Some are hard	
Strong	Can't see through ceramics (opaque)	Can be transparent, translucent or opaque.	
Corrode Easily (rust)	Don't corrode		
Many have high melt temperatures			