

# S

IS FOR SHAPE THE DAY





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**THIS PAPER IS YOUR MATERIAL**  
YOU CAN HAVE IT ALL

**Examine it closely.**

Look all around it,  
under and over it.

Run your hands  
over its surface  
and along its edges.

Push the point of  
one of its corners  
into your finger.

Balance it on your  
hand in front of you.

Hold it up to the light.

Flap it in the air.

Smell it.

Feel its weight.

Drop it.

Watch it fall.

Listen to it land.

**What have you learnt about the material in your hands?** Try not to think about what your material is, instead think about what it can do (this is a good way to think about bodies too – and artworks).

It can .....

It can .....

It can .....

**Scrunch up your material and carefully un-scrunch it again.** Your material has just been changed forever by your actions. Your material is now going to change you.

**Work together – you and your material – to explore the gallery.** Work with your material to recreate the textures, ideas and forms that you find in the artworks, and to shape your experience of the space.

Learn from how your material reacts to your actions.  
Learn from how you react to it.

Try out some of the tips below, and add your own as you go:

**Scrunch/un-scrunch** – to soften

**Fold and crease** – to create strong lines, hard edges or corners

**Combine** – to make larger or varying shapes and forms

**Hold up** – to block out anything you do not want to see

**Roll up** – to look at or listen to something more closely; use it like a telescope or a speaker

**Put down** – to explore scale. Place your material near an artwork and move away from it – use your own body to explore scale too; remember how important your body is in this space

**Exchange your piece of material with somebody else.**

**Examine their material closely.**

**Let it lead you back through the gallery to find which artworks they have recreated.**

What can you learn about their experiences in the gallery from their material?

How do their experiences differ from yours?

Activity devised by artist  
Emma McGarry through an exchange  
with artist Elisa Noguera Lopez  
for the launch of the new Tate Modern  
in collaboration with Schools and  
Teachers Tate London Learning

**BRING ART INTO YOUR CLASSROOM**

You can also access the collection  
artworks from [tate.org.uk](http://tate.org.uk)

