

Name: _____ Date: _____



Solid Rock to Building Block: The Wedge

Test each wedge material against each rock material. Using the rating scale below, rate how each wedge worked as a cutting tool by putting one number in each box of the table.

		Wedge Material				
		Wooden Wedge	Balsa Wood	Plastic		
Rock Material	Clay					
	Soap					
	Foam					
	Styrofoam					

Rating Scale	<p>1 = Worked very well; separates material well and wedge did not break</p> <p>2 = Worked well; wedge separates the material, but the edges are rough</p> <p>3 = Worked okay; wedge dents the material but did not cut well</p> <p>4 = Worked poorly; little or no denting but wedge did not break</p> <p>5 = Worked very poorly; did not separate material and/or the wedge broke</p>
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1. Which wedge material had the sharpest angle?
2. Which wedge had the biggest cutting surface? Was it pointy or did it have a long edge?
3. List one reason why engineers design different types of wedges.