**Solid Rock to Building Block: The Wedge Worksheet**

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.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Rock Material** | **Wedge Material** |
|  |  Wooden Wedge |  Balsa Wood |  Plastic |  |  |
|  Clay |  |  |  |  |  |
|  Soap |  |  |  |  |  |
|  Foam |  |  |  |  |  |
| Styrofoam |  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Rating Scale** | **1** | Worked very well; separates material well and wedge did not break |
| **2** | Worked well; wedge separates the material, but the edges are rough |
| **3** | Worked okay; wedge dents the material but did not cut well |
| **4** | Worked poorly; little or no denting but the wedge did not break |
| **5** | Worked very poorly; did not separate material and/or the wedge broke |

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| 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.
 |