

What is glass?

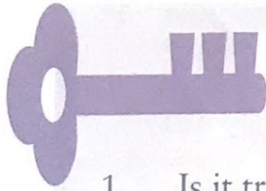


Glass was discovered a very long time ago, and has been used for centuries to make useful objects. Look around you and see how many things are made of glass. Windows, mirrors, bottles, jars, lenses and television screens are all made of glass.

Glass is usually a hard, brittle material. But when glass is heated, it changes. The glass melts, and runs and flows like a sticky liquid.

Molten glass can be pulled, stretched and pressed in any direction and made into different shapes.

When glass is cool, it becomes strong and hard. The glass may feel solid, but it is still really a liquid. Scientists call glass a “supercooled liquid”. Like a clear liquid, glass is transparent and light passes through it. The unusual properties of glass make it a very useful material.



Answer in sentences.

- 1 Is it true that glass is really a liquid?
- 2 Write down six everyday glass objects that are mentioned in the passage.
- 3 Think of four more everyday objects made of glass and write them down.
- 4 Explain why glass is a very unusual material. Give all the reasons you can find in the passage.
- 5 What do the following words mean?
brittle transparent properties
- 6 How many years are there in a century?
- 7 What is the difference between a discovery and an invention?