Protecting Objects from Fading

Why do materials break down, fade, or change over time? Explain some causes for these effects, naming at least one living and one non-living thing involved with decomposition.

What does a conservator do? A conservator works to protect and preserve objects. They use careful observation, sometimes with the help of computers and microscopes, to investigate objects for signs of decomposition. They fix damage and protect objects from future decomposition.
Procedure

1. Choose your materials to test.

2. Tape each material to the construction paper by looping the tape and placing it underneath the material before sticking it to the paper.

3. Trace around each material and label what type it is with pencil.

4. Be sure to leave some space on your construction paper between each of your materials.

5. Place your construction paper in a brightly lit area, such as a window, for at least five days.
Decomposition Investigation

**Question:** Which materials will block exposure and protect the color of the paper?

**Prediction:**

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<th>Materials Used</th>
<th>Rating</th>
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**Results**

Rate the materials based on key below:

1 - did not block the sun
2 - somewhat blocked the sun
3 - mostly blocked the sun
4 - blocked the sun completely

Share your data in the class chart so that a class average can be compiled from many data points.

Do your results match your prediction? Explain.

What conclusions can you draw from the class data?

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Based on your findings, what investigation would you plan next?
Today's theme is: __________________________

Today's vocabulary word is: __________________________

Define using words or pictures or examples:

Today's skill is: __________________________

Define using words or pictures or examples:

Today's career is: __________________________

This skill is used by: artists scientists both

**What does a designer do?** Designers consider how people interact with an objects, and then try to make that interaction better. Consider your shows: Are they comfortable? How do they look? What materials are they made of? Designers use their creativity to imagine the things they want to make, but to make their ideas real, they must understand how their materials work.

How will you use the results from the decomposition investigation to inspire your own work of art? Describe your thinking.