



Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Glass Slippers, Anyone?

An activity of "Tokyo's transparent toilets"

Read "Tokyo's transparent toilets" (page 15, *What's Up* September 2020). In the story, the designer of transparent toilets, Mr Ban, said there are two things that the public worry about when using public restrooms, especially in a park. What are they? These concerns inspired him to design his cool and clever transparent toilets! As you can imagine, much thought goes into designing many of the things that we use today, even the most common ones.

1. Collect three samples of one object, preferably made of different materials. For example, three different pencils, hairclips, pairs of scissors, combs, mugs, spoons, etc. Study your collection and record your findings in the chart below.

Three varieties of one object.				
Thumbnail sketch of each	Description in words	Material(s) it is made of	Advantages of that material	Disadvantages of the material
a)				
b)				
c)				
Of these three varieties of the same object, which is your favourite? Explain why.				

3. Imagine how you would redesign a common object using a material that is less common, e.g. hairclips made of magnet, wooden curtains, rubber socks, glass slippers, etc. Draw and explain your design below.

4. Explain why you chose this uncommon material and how well you think it will work.
