

## Core Skills Analysis

### History & Cultural Studies

- Cillian learned about the cultural significance of obsidian in ancient Aztec society, understanding it was a valued natural resource.
- He discovered how ancient peoples innovatively used natural materials like obsidian to create functional tools.
- The activity introduced him to concepts of early technology and craftsmanship from a historical perspective.
- Cillian gained an awareness of how everyday life in ancient cultures was shaped by available resources and skills.

### Science - Materials & Technology

- Cillian explored the properties of obsidian as a sharp volcanic glass suitable for crafting tools.
- He learned the basics of how natural materials can be transformed for practical purposes.
- The activity promoted an early understanding of cause and effect: selecting materials to solve real-world problems.
- Cillian was introduced to basic concepts of tool-making technologies and their evolution.

### Tips

To deepen Cillian's understanding, engage him in hands-on experiments with natural materials that can be shaped like obsidian, such as clay or playdough, to mimic tool-making processes. Explore other ancient cultures and the tools they made to compare innovations and lifestyles. Visit a museum with a collection of artifacts, or create a simple re-enactment by crafting basic tools from safe household items, emphasizing the relationship between materials and their uses. Supplement learning with stories about ancient civilizations to broaden cultural appreciation and contextualize technology.

### Book Recommendations

- [How People Lived in Ancient Times](#) by Pamela Dell: A child-friendly introduction to daily life and tools in ancient cultures, including the Aztecs.
- [Making Stone Tools](#) by Caroline Arnold: Explains how early humans crafted tools from stone, highlighting materials like obsidian in simple language.
- [The Aztec Empire](#) by Elizabeth Payne: A colorful overview of Aztec culture, technology, and history suitable for young readers.

### Try This Next

- Worksheet: Match different ancient tools made from natural materials to their functions with pictures and simple sentences.
- Drawing Task: Draw and label a tool made from obsidian or another natural material, imagining how it might be used.

### Growth Beyond Academics

This activity likely nurtured Cillian's curiosity about history and his ability to focus on how ancient people solved problems using natural resources. It also encourages appreciation for human creativity and perseverance across time, fostering respect for other cultures' innovations.