



STAY CONNECTED. STAY CURIOUS.

Sink or Float Experiment

Have you ever wondered if something will sink or float in water? Buoyant objects float and dense objects sink. This experiment is all about testing what items are buoyant and will float in water. Make predictions and observations about buoyancy and density.

You'll need:

- Clear bowl or tub of water
- Towel for drying off/clean up
- Paper and pencil to record predictions and observations
- Optional: salt for extension experiment
- Items to test in the water (Suggestions below; finding the items can also be part of the activity!)

Paper clip	Sponge	Penny
Crayon	Cotton ball	Rock
Fruit (like an apple)	Spoon	Plastic toy



Note: you may want to do this experiment outside for easy clean up.

What to do:

1. Collect items.
2. Fill the bowl with water.
3. Ask “What items do you think will sink and what items do you think will float when put in the water?” Record predictions on the paper.
4. Test the items by placing them in the water one at a time. Observe if they sink or float and record answers on the paper.
5. Test the next item.
6. Continue to ask questions like “why do you think some items sink, while others float?” and “do you think they will sink if we leave them in the water longer?” Encourage more experimenting!



Extension: try the same experiment in saltwater. Is there a difference? Do the same items sink or float? When salt is dissolved in water, like the ocean, it makes the water denser. Because objects float better on a dense surface, they float better in saltwater than fresh water.