

Float or Sink Science Activity

To begin you will need: a large container (such as a mixing bowl), enough water to mostly fill your container of choice, an assortment of small household items that are safe to put in water (such as a rock, a pencil, a racecar, and an egg).

1 **Make observations: Use sight, smell, touch, hearing, and taste.** Use the assortment of household items to make observations of. **These are my observations:**

Need some support? Try using these prompts: What color is the race car? What does the pencil smell like? What do you notice about the rock?

2 **Ask questions: Form questions about the experiment.**
These are my questions:

Need some support? Try using these prompts: What are you curious about to happen? Will they all sink or will they all float?

3 **Form a hypothesis: Make predictions to the questions you asked.** **This is my hypothesis (prediction or educated guess):**

Need some support? Try using these prompts: Why don't we sort these things into two piles? Put everything you predict will float on the left and everything you predict will sink on the right.

4 **Test your hypothesis: It is time to begin your experiment!**
Fill your container of choice mostly full of water. One at a time, set each of the household items in the water to see if it floats or if it sinks. Items that float are less dense than water. This means that the matter it is made of is spaced farther apart than that of water. Items that sink are more dense than water. This means that the matter it is made of is spaced closer together than that of water.

5 **Record the results: You can take a picture, draw, or even videotape what happened.** You can use the Float or Sink? activity worksheet to record your results. **I recorded my results by:**

Need some support? Try using these prompts: Would you like to take a photo of all the things that floated and a second picture of all the things that sank? We could draw a picture of each item that floated on the left and a picture of each item that sank on the right.

6 **Share the results: Use your recordings or simply talk with others.** **I plan to share or (or have shared) my results by:**

Need some support? Try using these prompts: Would you like to call your uncle and tell him about our experiment? You can have him guess which items he thinks will float and which will sink and then you can reveal the answers and ask if he has any questions you can answer.

Name: _____

Float or Sink?

Draw the items that float in the left column and the items that sink in the right column.



Floats



Sinks

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