

SINK OR FLOAT



MATERIALS

- A LARGE CONTAINER OR BOWL WITH WATER
- SMALL OBJECTS WITH DIFFERENT WEIGHTS AND MATERIALS (SMALL PLASTIC TOYS, POPSICLE STICK, RUBBER BANDS, COINS, CORK, PAPER CLIPS, LEGO, BATH TOYS ETC.)
- PAPER AND MARKERS FOR RECORDING OBSERVATIONS

INSTRUCTIONS

1. FILL A LARGE CONTAINER WITH WATER, MAKING SURE IT'S DEEP ENOUGH FOR OBJECTS TO SINK OR FLOAT.
2. GUESS AND RECORD WHICH OBJECTS YOU THINK WILL SINK OR FLOAT BEFORE TESTING THEM IN THE WATER.
3. SELECT ONE OBJECT AT A TIME AND GENTLY PLACE IT IN THE WATER.
4. OBSERVE CLOSELY AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS. DID YOU GUESS CORRECTLY OR WERE YOU SURPRISED?

EXPLANATION

ITEMS SINK OR FLOAT BECAUSE OF SOMETHING CALLED DENSITY. DENSITY IS LIKE HOW TIGHTLY PACKED SOMETHING IS. SOME OBJECTS ARE REALLY DENSE, WHICH MEANS THEY HAVE A LOT OF STUFF PACKED INTO A SMALL SPACE. THEY ARE HEAVY, SO THEY SINK IN WATER. OTHER OBJECTS ARE NOT AS DENSE. THEY HAVE LESS STUFF PACKED INTO THE SAME AMOUNT OF SPACE. THESE OBJECTS ARE LIGHTER, SO THEY FLOAT ON TOP OF THE WATER. THERE ARE ALSO SOME OBJECTS THAT ARE JUST RIGHT! THEY'RE NOT TOO HEAVY, AND THEY'RE NOT TOO LIGHT. THESE OBJECTS HAVE A DENSITY THAT'S IN BETWEEN. THEY CAN STAY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE WATER.