SCIENCE EXPERIMENT · AGES 5–9

Sink or Float Challenge

Will it sink or float? Guess first, then test!

Think like a scientist!

What you need



A big bowl



Water

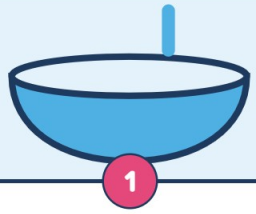


A towel

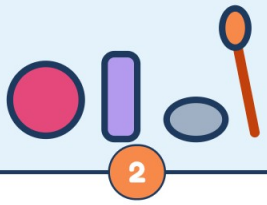


6 to 8 safe objects

Step by step



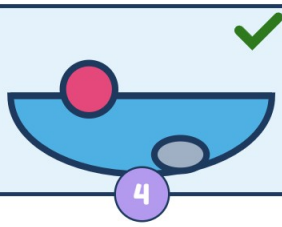
1. Fill a big bowl with water.



2. Pick 6 to 8 safe objects.



3. Predict: will it sink or float?



4. Test each one. Write the result.

Why it works

Water pushes up on everything you put in it. This push is called **buoyancy**. If an object is light for its size, the push holds it up and it **floats**. If it is heavy for its size (**dense**), it **sinks**.

Size alone does not decide. A big apple floats, but a small stone sinks.

Learning outcomes

1. **I can predict**
   Guess what will happen and say why.
2. **I can classify**
   Sort objects into sink and float groups.
3. **I can explain**
   Use the words buoyancy and dense.

Good objects to test

Most float:

- apple
- wooden spoon
- plastic ball
- empty bottle with lid

Most sink:

- potato
- metal spoon
- stone
- metal fork

Your results can be different. That is science!

Watch out

- [ ] Always do this with a grown-up near the water.
- [ ] Use big objects. Keep small things away from babies.
- [ ] Wipe up spills so nobody slips.

SCIENCE EXPERIMENT · RECORD SHEET

Sink or Float Record Sheet

Guess first. Then test and write what happened.

Name: _____ Age: _____ Date: _____

Object	My prediction	What happened	Right?
1.	◯ Float ◯ Sink	◯ Float ◯ Sink	◯ Yes ◯ No
2.	◯ Float ◯ Sink	◯ Float ◯ Sink	◯ Yes ◯ No
3.	◯ Float ◯ Sink	◯ Float ◯ Sink	◯ Yes ◯ No
4.	◯ Float ◯ Sink	◯ Float ◯ Sink	◯ Yes ◯ No
5.	◯ Float ◯ Sink	◯ Float ◯ Sink	◯ Yes ◯ No
6.	◯ Float ◯ Sink	◯ Float ◯ Sink	◯ Yes ◯ No
7.	◯ Float ◯ Sink	◯ Float ◯ Sink	◯ Yes ◯ No
8.	◯ Float ◯ Sink	◯ Float ◯ Sink	◯ Yes ◯ No

Sort your objects

Write or draw each object in the right group.

Float

Sink

What I noticed

Things that float are _____

Things that sink are _____

I was surprised that _____

Bonus challenge

Predict first, then test.

Test	My prediction	What happened
An orange with its peel	◯ Float ◯ Sink	◯ Float ◯ Sink
The same orange with no peel	◯ Float ◯ Sink	◯ Float ◯ Sink
Kitchen foil squeezed into a ball	◯ Float ◯ Sink	◯ Float ◯ Sink
The same foil made into a boat	◯ Float ◯ Sink	◯ Float ◯ Sink

You are a scientist!