



Sink or Float Experiments

Tap into your natural curiosity and see which items from nature sink and which ones float! This is a great activity to introduce kids to the concepts of density (how tightly packed together the molecules are in an item, calculated by dividing mass by volume). Whether an object sinks or floats depends on the density of the object as compared to the density of the fluid it's suspended in. Water has a density of 1g/cm^3 , so anything with a density less than 1g/cm^3 will float (the closer the density is to 1g/cm^3 though, the more the object will sit below the water level) and anything with a greater density will sink. Here's the full how-to:

Step 1: Go outside to collect items from nature, like pinecones, sticks, rocks, acorns, seeds, pieces of loose moss, berries still hanging on from last year, and whatever else you can find! You can also use produce items from your fridge, like the apple in the photo below. If you use produce and nature items, test the produce first so you aren't putting produce in dirty water!

Step 2: Bring the items back inside to a filled sink or, if it's a nice day out where you are, fill up a large pot, bowl, or jar with water and bring it outside.

Step 3: Make predictions as to which items will sink and which will float, and circle your choice on the table on the next page.

Step 4: Test your predictions and circle whether objects sank or floated!





Name of Object	Prediction		Result	
	Sink	Float	Sink	Float
	Sink	Float	Sink	Float
	Sink	Float	Sink	Float
	Sink	Float	Sink	Float
	Sink	Float	Sink	Float
	Sink	Float	Sink	Float
	Sink	Float	Sink	Float
	Sink	Float	Sink	Float
	Sink	Float	Sink	Float
	Sink	Float	Sink	Float
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