



Activity:

**Sink or Float Experiment
(plain water vs. salt water)**

**Learner
Objective:**

The student will be able to distinguish between objects that float and objects that sink. The student will discover that the amount of salt in the water affects the ability of objects to float...the more salt, the better the water's ability to support objects."

**Materials
Needed:**

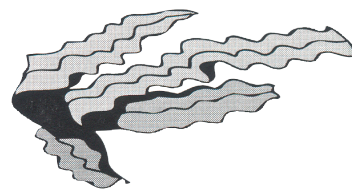
2 buckets of water
a towel
1 cup salt

Items to test for ability to float (see record sheet for list)
Reproducible sink or float record sheet

Steps:

1. Fill the buckets with water. Add 1-cup salt to one bucket. Place the buckets on a towel in case of overflow.
2. Have students use the record sheet for recording their predictions about whether the items will sink or float in fresh water and in salt water.
3. Discuss their conclusions about the differences between fresh water and salt water.

Sink or Float Record Sheet



Items	My Guess	Test (plain water)	Test (salt water)
dry sponge			
wet sponge			
paper clip			
modeling clay ball			
modeling clay boat			
eraser			
marble			
cork			
pen			
wooden pencil			
aluminum foil ball			
aluminum foil square			
ping pong ball			
washcloth			
bar of soap			
paper cup			
wood block			
orange			
glass jar			
glass jar with lid			
paper cup			