



Kitchen Science

Sink or Float?

What you need:

- Large bowl or bucket filled about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way with water
- Natural materials such as leaves, grass, flowers, dirt, or rocks
- Man-made materials that can safely be in water such as Lego bricks, balls, or toy figures
- *Optional:* a towel or two for catching any spills & a scale to compare weight of objects

What you do:

1. Since this is a water activity, prepare your area with towels or a tarp. You could also do the activity outside or even in the bathtub.
2. Gather all sorts of natural and man-made materials and make a prediction about each one: will it sink or float?
3. Place your items one-by-one in your bucket of water.
4. Make observations: What happened? Do any of the results surprise you?

Do you notice any similarities among the items that sink, or among the items that float? What about differences?

Do any objects start out floating but after time sink? Why?



Things to try:

- Try finding an object that might not sink or float, but hovers in the middle.
- As an extra challenge for older children, construct something that does not float on the surface of the water or sinks to the bottom, but hovers in the water much like a submarine.