

## 60. Sink or Float

**Classroom Activity:** Children experiment with different objects in a water table to observe which would sink or float.

**Grade(s):** 2

**Strand (s):** Understanding Matter and Energy

This task addresses the following overall expectations:

- investigate the properties of and interactions among liquids and solids;
- demonstrate an understanding of the properties of liquids and solids.

and the following specific expectations:

- follow established safety procedures during science and technology investigations;
- use scientific inquiry/experimentation skills to investigate liquids and solids in terms of their capacity for buoyancy and/or absorption;
- use technological problem-solving skills and knowledge acquired from previous investigations, to design, build, and test a structure that involves interactions between liquids and solids;
- use appropriate science and technology vocabulary, including clear, opaque, runny, hard, greasy, and granular, in oral and written communication;
- use a variety of forms (e.g., oral, written, graphic, multimedia) to communicate with different audiences and for a variety of purposes.

**Assessment Categories:**

- Knowledge and Understanding
- Thinking and Investigation
- Communication
- Teambuilding skills

**Cross-discipline connections:**

Language

**Type of Activity:** Classroom, Independent Study



**Preparation:** 1/2 hour

**Materials/Resources for teachers:**

Water table

Items that sink/float

Observation sheet

**Activity Description:**

Children experiment with different objects in the water table.

They observe which objects "sink or float, and record their observations on their observation sheet.

Students discuss their observations and develop an explanation as to why the object would sink or float.

**Tip:**

Explain the activity first, before handing out materials and letting children near the water table.