



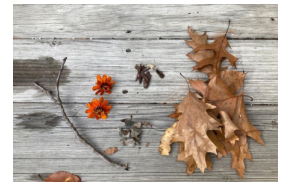
Kitchen Science

Sink or Float?

See [this activity](#) on our YouTube channel.

What you need:

- Large bowl or bucket filled about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way with water
- Natural materials, suggestions: leaves, grass, flowers, dirt, rocks, and more
- Man-made materials, suggestions: legos, balls, toy figures, and more
- *Optional:* a towel or two for catching any spills & a scale to compare weight of objects
- *Helpful hints:* Anytime doing an activity with water, the potential of a mess is a real possibility. Some ways to help prepare before the activity could be getting towels, a tarp, doing the activity outside or even in the bathtub.



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. Make a prediction about each one: will it sink or float?
3. Place your items one-by-one in your bucket of water. What do you notice?
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?
 - Why does an object sink or float? Is the weight of the object important? What about its density?

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.

Find more at-home activities at <http://discoveryacton.org/discovery-home>.