**SINK OR FLOAT**

**Fun Facts:**

- Liquids vary in their density, too. Try mixing corn syrup, oil and water together. The corn syrup sinks to the bottom because it is dense.

- The shape of an object can also determine if it *sinks* or *floats*. A ball of clay sinks right away.

- Objects filled with air also *float*.

**Objective:**

- Students will be able to state observations of how an object’s density relates to its ability to sink or float in water.

**Materials:**

You will need some sort of bucket, bin, sink, bathtub, etc., filled with water for the sink-or-float experiments.

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<th>Pre-K</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rubber Duck</td>
<td>Plastic Spoon</td>
<td>Plastic Spoon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lego</td>
<td>Metal Spoon</td>
<td>Metal Spoon</td>
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<td>Plastic Water Bottle</td>
<td>Plastic Cup</td>
<td>Plastic Cup</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toy Car</td>
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<td>Action Figure/Barbie</td>
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<td>Penny</td>
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For more activities, please visit us at [www.alcosan.org/educational-activities](http://www.alcosan.org/educational-activities).
Procedure:

- Ask questions such as what do items that sink have in common, what do items that float have in common, etc.

- Before the students experiment, they will need to make predictions as to whether they think the objects are going to sink or float.

- What does it mean when we say “Make a prediction?”
  - To make an educated guess about what will happen.

- Students can use the “Sink or Float Handout” page to make their predictions. Show students each individual item and have them make a prediction by drawing a line from that item to either “sink” or “float” in the picture.

- Then place one item at a time into the tub of water to find out whether the item sinks or floats.

- When all items have been tested, refer to the results handout.

Follow-up:

Ask the students:

- How many did you get right?
- Did some items sink that you thought would float? Why do you think so?
- Did some items float that you thought would sink? Why?
- Do you think that the shape of the object affects whether it will sink or float?
- What do all of the objects that float have in common?
- What do all of the objects that sink have in common?
- Does the size/material of an object affect its buoyancy? How?
- Do you think your results would be different if you used a liquid other than water? For example, apple juice. How could you test that?