

Unit Name/Theme: Water/Sink or Float?

What are we doing? Children will be sorting items into groups based on a prediction of whether it will sink or whether it will float, then testing their predictions in water.

Purpose/Why? This activity introduces making predictions, observations, and experimentation. These are skills that will help to get children ready for kindergarten and line up with the Next Generation Science Standards.

Materials:

You will need to provide:

- Assorted everyday items that will either sink or float and not be damaged by water.
- Tub or bucket filled with water.

Books:

“Captain Kidd’s Crew Experiments with Sinking and Floating” by Mark Weakland



Quick Start:

Give children time to look, touch, and talk about the items and make a prediction of whether it will sink or float. Sort them into a sink group and a float group. Have the children use the items and a tub of water to test their hypothesis. Talk with the children about why or why not their predictions were right.



Deeper Dive:

Create a chart of the items and have them chart their predictions as well as the results. Talk about the similarities between each group of items as well as their differences. This is a fun way to introduce the concept of graphing.

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Ask a Question

- How are the items that sink the same or different from each other?
- How are the items that float the same or different from each other?
- What did you notice about the items that sink?
- What did you notice about items that float?



Vocabulary Builder

- Float
- Sink
- Hypothesis
- Light
- Heavy
- Graph

Other Activities: Go for a walk outside and collect items to test. Talk about what they may have in common with items that they know will sink or float and make predictions based on that information. Test them to see if they sink or float. Talk about why they floated or sank.