

Tips for Parents

Encourage your child to ask questions and explore their ideas. Guide your child to experiment and use their observations to develop their own conclusions to questions. Use some of these questions to help them make connections and draw conclusions:

- How can we find out?
- What do you see?
- Why did that happen? How do you know?
- What is similar about the items that sink? What is different?
- What is similar about the items that float? What is different?

Additional household items that you and your child can experiment with:

- Tin Foil
- Toy car
- Toy boat
- Clay or playdough
- Tealight candle
- Water bottle (full and empty)
- Paperclips
- Penny
- Ping pong ball
- Crayon
- Blocks/Legos
- Cork



This take-home activity is supported by Cambridge STEAM Initiative, a joint partnership between the City of Cambridge's Department of Human Service Programs and Cambridge Public Schools.

If you have any questions about the STEAM Initiative, please contact Sharlene Yang at syang@cambridgema.gov.

STEAM

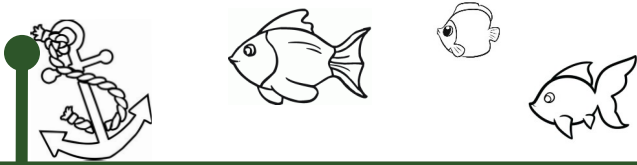
(Science Technology Engineering Arts Math)

@ Home

Sink or Float?

A Science Exploration Activity

Sink or Float?



Your Exploration Set Up:

Find a spot where you can make a wet mess! Fill a small, clear container with water or fill the kitchen sink half-way with water and use a chair or stool so your child can comfortably reach. Place items from the STEAM@Home Kit and others you collected from home next to the water container. Prepare to explore!

NOTE: Always use caution when playing with water, especially with younger children. The items, the table or floor, and your child may get wet from this activity.

ASK Why do some things sink and others float? Read the book to help you begin exploring this idea.

PREDICT Look at the materials you will experiment with and make a guess of which objects will sink or float. Why did you make that guess?

EXPLORE Place the objects in water one at a time.

OBSERVE What happens? Which items sink and which items float?

RECORD After observing each item, physically sort them into two piles (sink or float) or record your data by writing or drawing a picture of the object on pieces of paper labeled “Sink” and “Float”.

REFLECT Look back at the book and discuss why you think some objects sink and some objects float.

REPEAT Still have questions? Keep Exploring!
Can you change features of some objects to change the results? Using the rubber band, attach weight to the “float” items to make them sink. Then, attach floating materials to the “sink” items to make them float. Reshape materials or find new materials to experiment with.