

Sink or Float Predictions

Grades K–2 • 15 min • 1+ students

WHAT YOU NEED

- A clear tub or bucket of water, 8–10 small waterproof objects (a cork, a coin, a plastic block, a small rock)

SETUP

Fill the tub with a few inches of water somewhere spills are okay, and lay out the objects to test.

HOW TO RUN IT

1. Hold up an object and ask the class to predict: sink or float? Have them vote with a thumbs up (float) or thumbs down (sink).
2. Drop the object in and observe the result together.
3. Ask why they think it happened that way — introduce the idea that it's about weight compared to size (density), in kid-friendly terms.
4. Repeat for each object, and sort them into two piles (sank / floated) at the end to look for patterns.

VARIATIONS

- Let kids sort the objects into predicted piles before testing, then check their whole sorted set at once.
- Add a "can you make a sinking object float?" challenge with tinfoil to test boat-shape as a follow-up.