Sink or Float

INSTRUCTIONS:

Step 1. Cut out each picture on the next page. Predict whether the object will float or sink when you put it in water. Sort each object into a Float or Sink pile.

Step 2. Fill the large bowl or container with water. Put each actual object in the water. Observe what happens. Glue each picture into the correct Float or Sink area on the next page.

Step 3. Compare the objects that float. Do you think a wood block will float? Explain why or why not in the space below.

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Step 4. Test whether the wood block floats or sinks.

Step 5. Test other objects around the house.

MATERIALS:

• Large bowl or container
• Water
• Metal spoon
• Plastic spoon
• Wooden spoon
• Rubber ball
• Coin
• Pencil
• Crayon
• Eraser
• Craft stick
• Plastic lid
• Wood block
THE SCIENCE BEHIND IT:

All things are made of very small particles called molecules. The type of molecules and the closeness of the molecules determines an object’s density. If an object is more dense than water, it will sink. If it is less dense than water, it will float. Water and ice are made of the same type of molecules, but the molecules in ice are farther apart. This means ice is less dense than water, so ice floats.