

Floating and sinking: test shape as well as material

Pupil activity

Audience: Year 5 pupils

Record predictions and observations for eight familiar objects, compare plasticine in two shapes and use the results to write a conclusion.

Objects

Use the teacher-approved set: apple, coin, cork, metal spoon, wooden block, stone, plastic bottle lid and plasticine.

Object	My prediction: float or sink?	What I observed	What this result tells me
Apple			
Coin			
Cork			
Metal spoon			
Wooden block			
Stone			

Floating and sinking: test shape as well as material

Object	My prediction: float or sink?	What I observed	What this result tells me
Plastic bottle lid			
Plasticine ball			

Compare the shape

With the teacher's direction, use the same amount of plasticine in both tests.

Shape	Prediction	Observation	What stayed the same?
Ball			Material and amount
Boat			Material and amount

Use your results

1. How many of the eight objects floated? _____ How many sank? _____
2. Name one object whose observation matched your prediction and one that did not.

3. What happened to the same plasticine in the two shapes?

Floating and sinking: test shape as well as material

4. Write: "In my test, _____. My table shows _____. I cannot conclude _____ from this test alone."
