Sink or float: test and explain

Grades 3 to 5 · Years 4 to 6 · page 1

Name _____ Date _____

Object	Material	Prediction	Result	Heavy or light?
apple				
coin				
key				
stone				
leaf				
sponge				
plastic ball				
metal spoon				

Did every heavy thing sink and every light thing float?

☐ yes ☐ no **Find one surprise:** _____

What I think decides whether something floats

_____

_____

_____

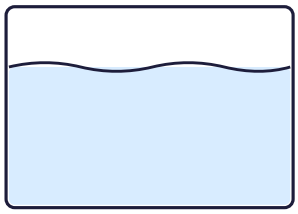
_____

Write predictions in pencil first: F for float, S for sink. Test each object one at a time.

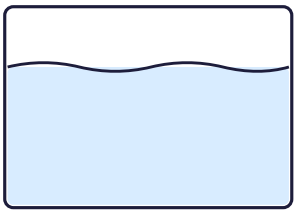
Make it float: the clay and foil challenge

Grades 3 to 5 · Years 4 to 6 · page 2

A ball of clay draw what it did



The same clay as a boat draw what it did



Foil boat challenge: how many coins before it sinks?

Boat shape (draw or describe)	Try 1	Try 2	Try 3	Best

Why did the boat shape float when the ball sank?

Use the same size of foil square and the same coins for every boat, so the test is fair.