SCIENCE

Sink or float

Name _____ Date _____

I can predict and test if objects sink or float.

1 How it works

Some things float on water and some things sink. It is not only about size: a big log floats, but a small coin sinks. Wood, cork and most plastic float, while stone and metal usually sink. Shape matters too: a flat foil boat can float, but the same foil squeezed into a tight ball sinks.



2 Predict: will it sink or float?

Circle one for each.


leaf — sink / float


duck — sink / float


apple — sink / float


brick — sink / float


ball — sink / float


spoon — sink / float

key — sink / float


rock — sink / float

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

Sink and float

Name _____ Date _____

I can sort objects that sink and float.

1 Sink or float? Sort them.

Write each word in a column.

sponge | feather | coin | stone | cork | wood block | nail | marble

sinks	floats

2 Circle the one that floats

1. a cork / a coin
2. a rock / a leaf
3. a plastic boat / a metal key
4. a brick / an apple

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

Think like a scientist

Name _____ Date _____

I can explain why some things float and some things sink.

1 Think about it

1. Why can a big log float? _____
2. Why does a small pebble sink? _____
3. How could you make clay float? _____
4. Which floats better, a full or an empty bottle? _____

2 True or false? Circle it.

1. A big log can float.	**true**	**false**
2. Most metal objects sink.	**true**	**false**
3. Everything heavy floats.	**true**	**false**
4. A small coin floats on water.	**true**	**false**
5. Shape can change whether something floats.	**true**	**false**

3 Design a boat that could carry 10 coins. Label it.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

Try it: the foil boat challenge

Name _____ Date _____

I can test how shape helps a boat float.

1 You need

- a square of aluminum foil
- a tub of water
- coins or marbles
- a pencil
- a grown-up nearby

2 What to do

1. Fold the foil into a boat with sides.
2. Float your boat in the tub of water.
3. Add coins one at a time, gently, until the boat sinks. Count them.
4. Squeeze the same foil into a tight ball. Does it float or sink?

3 I predict

How many coins can your boat hold?

_____

_____

4 What I see

Try	Coins it held	What I changed
Boat 1		
Boat 2		
Foil ball		

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: sink or float

1 Page 1

Sink or float: 1) leaf: floats; 2) duck: floats; 3) apple: floats; 4) brick: sinks; 5) ball: floats; 6) spoon: sinks; 7) key: sinks; 8) rock: sinks.

2 Page 2

Sort: 1) sinks: coin, marble, stone, nail; 2) floats: cork, sponge, feather, wood block.

Floats: 1) a cork; 2) a leaf; 3) a plastic boat; 4) an apple.

3 Page 3

Think: 1) Wood is light for its size; 2) Stone is heavy for its size; 3) Shape it into a boat; 4) An empty bottle.

True or false: 1) true; 2) true; 3) false; 4) false; 5) true.

Drawing: answers will vary. Look for a wide, flat boat with tall sides.

4 Page 4: Try it!

Answers will vary. A wide, flat boat with tall sides usually holds the most coins, because it pushes away more water. The tight foil ball weighs the same, but it pushes away much less water, so it sinks. Shape, not only weight, decides if something floats.

5 Teaching tip

Before each test, let children put the object on a sink mat or a float mat to show their prediction. Count how many predictions were right and talk about the surprises.

Safety: a grown-up watches whenever there is a tub of water. Wipe up spills.

Scan for more free practice