

# STEMSPARK Science with a Splash: Investigating Sinking and Floating

In this experiment, your child will explore buoyancy, the science behind why objects sink or float. Collect items from around your house that you don't mind getting wet. Next, fill a small tub or sink with water. Have your child predict whether each item will sink or float. Be sure to consider the following:

- **How HEAVY is the object?** The heavier the object is, the more likely it is to sink!
- **How BIG is the object?** Larger objects tend to displace more water, an important factor for an object's buoyancy.
- **Is this object POROUS?** Objects that contain pockets of air such as sponges, wood tend to float because air is so light!

Once your child has made their prediction, carefully place each object in the water. Observe and record whether each item sinks or floats. Next, pour a generous amount of salt into the water and stir. Re-test each object to see if items that previously sank, now float!

Household Object	Prediction	Test 1: Freshwater	Test 2: Salt Water