



Density Lesson



In this lesson, children will learn about the wonderful properties of water.

BACKGROUND:

The mass of atoms, their size, and how they are arranged determine the density of a substance. Solubility is the degree to which a substance can dissolve. Buoyancy is the ability or tendency to float in water or air or some other fluid. Through this activity you will observe a substance, that is not soluble and is less dense than water. Due to the lighter density of the substance, it will become buoyant and float to the water's surface.

MATERIALS:

- Clear or light colored dish with rounded edges
- Water
- Dry erase markers
- Dish towel

PROCEDURE:

- Have a discussion as a family about items that sink or float.
- At each point of this experiment, have children practice science skills and make observations. Have older children write down their observations or sketch what they see.
 - Ask them:
 - What do they see?
 - What do they notice?
 - What do they wonder about?
- Write or draw on your dish with dry erase markers.

CONCLUSION:

Have a conversation to discuss what was observed throughout the experiment and what each family member thinks is happening in order to make the writing or drawing rise to the water's surface. Explain the science behind the activity and share the background information on density, solubility, and buoyancy.



The City of San Bernardino Municipal Water Department has partnered with the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District to bring you a series of virtual lessons and activity write ups on water education and conservation.

