

# SINK OR FLOAT ACTIVITY

## Introduction

Do you like to swim? Think about the last time you went swimming. Do you take toys with you when you swim? Do you use pool noodles? Some of these objects stay on the surface of the water, but others sink to the bottom. With this fun activity, learn more about density while seeing what household objects sink and which objects float!

## Learning Objectives

1. Recognize what characteristics might make an object sink or float.
2. Understand how weight affects the ability to float.

## Materials

1. Bucket
2. Water (enough to fill  $\frac{3}{4}$  of bucket)
3. Assortment of waterproof household objects (i.e. pencil, sponge, toys, paperclips, etc!)
4. Piece of paper
5. Pencil/Pen

## Step-by-Step

1. Fill the bucket with water until it is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  full.
2. One at a time, take an object you found and place it in the water.
3. Make a note on your piece of paper: write the name of the object, and then if it sinks or floats.
4. Once finished, make sure to dry off all the objects!

## Conclusion Qs

1. What are some characteristics that the objects that FLOAT share?
2. What are some characteristics that the objects that SINK share?
3. What are some differences between objects that sink and objects that float?
4. Based on what you saw, do you think a balloon would sink or float?
5. Based on what you saw, do you think a stapler would sink or float?