

Stay Afloat!

What You Will Need

- A large pan or bowl that will hold 2-3 inches of water
- Several small things safe to get wet: leaves, sticks, rocks, small toys
- Aluminum foil
- Coins



What to Do

1. Take a look at the objects you've gathered. Hold them in your hands and think about which objects are **heavier, lighter, bigger, or smaller**.
2. Guess if each object will sink or float when dropped into the dish of water. Scientists call these guesses, or predictions, a **hypothesis**. Why do you predict it will sink or float?
3. **Experiment**, or test your guess, by carefully dropping the objects in the water and seeing, or observing, which ones sink or float. Were your guesses correct? **(Adults: This is an excellent activity for early learners!)**



Will It Float?

To go even deeper into the science of buoyancy, use aluminum foil to shape your own small boat. Experiment with the size and shape, and once it's done, test it by carefully loading it up with coins. How many coins can it hold before it sinks? Will changes in the design allow it to hold more coins?