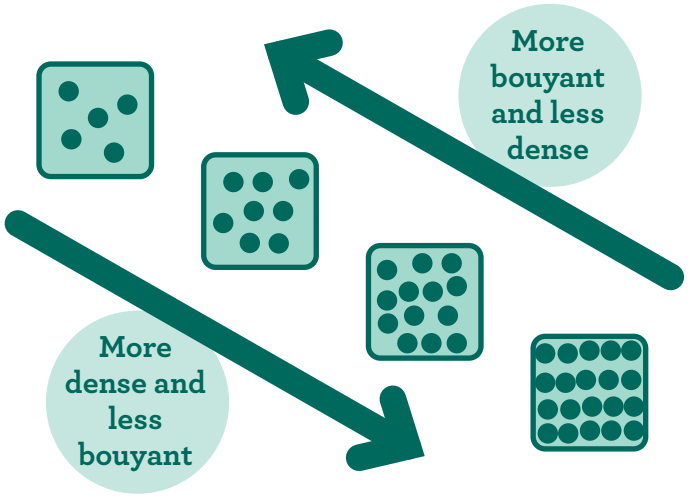
Community of CURIOSITY

Milwaukee Public Museum

# DIVING INTO DENSITY

## What causes something to float?

**Density** (how much matter is in a particular space or object) **determines whether something floats.** If an object is more dense than water, it sinks. If it's less dense, it floats. In our experiment, adding salt made the water more dense, causing the egg to float. **Buoyancy is the force that causes an object to float.**




If you want to take your own voyage to the "deep," you'll need to know about buoyancy! Join us for this easy experiment showing how something simple, like salt in water, can affect how things float.

## MATERIALS:

- ☑ 3 cups or glasses
- ☑ Table salt (6 tbsp)
- ☑ A fresh egg
- ☑ Water

## Directions

1. Label cups as: **A.** Freshwater, **B.** Saltwater (2 tbsp salt) and, **C.** Saltwater (4 tbsp salt)
2. Fill each cup with 12 oz (1.5 c) water.
3. Add salt according to the label you made, stirring well to make sure it dissolves.
4. Make a prediction: Which cups will the egg float in?
5. Gently place egg in each cup, recording your observations.

## Make a Prediction

| Will it.... | Sink | Float |
|---|---|---|
| Freshwater | | |
| Saltwater (2 tbsp) | | |
| Saltwater (4 tbsp) | | |

| Make an Observation | What did you notice? |
|---|---|
| Freshwater | |
| Saltwater (2 tbsp) | |
| Saltwater (4 tbsp) | |