

Floating and Sinking

Task one:

Let's investigate... what floats and what sinks?

Collect some items and make a table like the one pictured here. List the item, record your prediction: will it float or will it sink? Then investigate to see if your prediction was correct! Your table could include pictures or words.

ITEM	Prediction - What we think will happen		What we found out	
	Float	Sink	Floated	Sunk

Task two:

Choose to either work together or individually, to build a miniature 'boat' that floats. Sketch a plan and label it so you know what materials you might use. You could use any materials such as cardboard or recycling, bottles, sticks, paper... get creative! Think about what items floated in the investigation above. Once you have built your vessel, test it - does it float? Make any necessary alterations.

Task three:

Now that you have a vessel that floats, choose some items to add to your boat. How many things can you add before it begins to sink? You could use marbles, lego or coins.

Extras for experts:

- Can you improve your first design to carry more before it sinks?
- Have a family challenge to see who can build the strongest vessel.
- How many words can you list that rhyme with 'boat'? Write them down. What about the 'sink' or 'sunk'?
- Write some instructions to explain step-by-step how you built your boat.
- Junior children might enjoy listening to the following story on YouTube: "Who Sank the Boat?" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nR2cTR9WSck>

