



Saltwater Density Activity

Want to do a simple but fun ocean science experiment from your home?

Here's what you will need: two large glasses, warm water and at least 3 tablespoons of salt. You will also need to find some items around your house that you would like to use in this experiment.

The first question we need to ask ourselves is... what is density? My follow up questions is... does salt affect the density of water? Lets dive in!

Density, for our purposes, can best be understood when you are holding big items that feel light, like a ping pong ball. We would call a ping pong ball less dense than smaller items that feel heavier, like a gold ring for example. A more technical definition of density is that it is the amount of mass per unit of volume. If an object is heavy and compact, it has a high density.

Lets get into how to conduct the experiment!

STEP 1: Start by filling one glass about 2/3 of the way full with water. Ask the kids what will happen if you carefully drop an egg into the glass of water. Now go ahead and do it!

STEP 2: In the other glass, fill to the same height with water. Now stir in 3 tablespoons of salt. Mix well to dissolve the salt! Ask the kids what they think will happen this time and demonstrate!

The second egg should float due to the density of the water!

Kids can easily experiment with different objects from around the room and predict what they think will happen!

Small plastic items will work best with the measurements of salt and water provided. If the item still sinks in the saltwater, ask the kids what they think! Should they add more salt?

