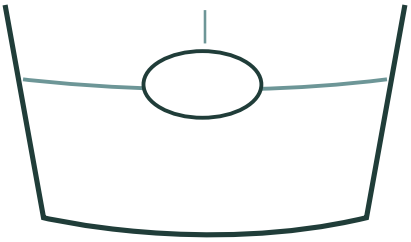
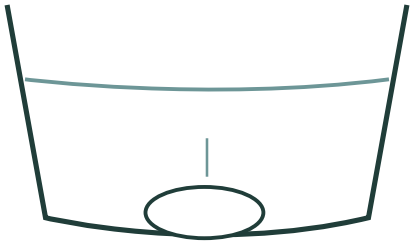
Float or Sink: Predict and Test

A prediction is an idea about what might happen. An observation records what happens.

An adult stays beside you throughout. Use a stable bowl with a shallow layer of room-temperature fresh water, a towel and four safe objects checked by the adult. Keep water away from electricity.



Floats at the surface



Sinks to the bottom

1. Name each object. Predict: F = float, S = sink. 2. Gently place one object on the water and let go. Wait 10 seconds. Record F, S or O (other), then remove it. Use the same bowl and water for each test.

Object: write or draw	Prediction	Observed
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

O means the result did not fit either description. If you write O, describe what happened on the next page. A floating object may sit partly below the surface.

Use large, unbreakable objects: no sharp items, glass, batteries or objects that fit in a mouth.

Repeat, Compare and Explain

A careful scientist records an unexpected result as honestly as an expected one.

Choose two of your tested objects. Use the same water and method. Check again after 10 seconds. If an object has soaked up water or changed, record that too.

Object	First result	Repeat result	Same?

From the first four tests:

F: ___ S: ___ O: ___ Total: ___

The three counts should add up to 4 objects.

One result (or change) I noticed:

_____

_____

Finish with evidence: In our test, ...

_____

An idea about what might happen is a:

Circle: prediction / observation

A record of what actually happened is an:

Circle: prediction / observation

Your result describes these objects in this test. It is not a rule for every object of that material.