

POTATO FLOAT

PURPOSE: Children will observe that adding salt to water can cause objects in the water to float.

MATERIALS:

Book Topics: Floating, sinking

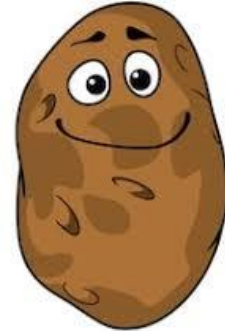
Cup

Water

Teaspoon

Salt

Small red potato

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Fill a cup with water.
2. Have each family member predict what will happen when you place the potato into the cup of water. Will it sink or float?
3. Place a small potato into the cup of water and observe what happens. Remove the potato.
4. Add 4 tablespoons of salt to the water and stir.
5. Predict what will happen to the potato when it is placed into the salty water.
6. Place the potato into the cup of water. Observe.

HOW IT WORKS: When salt is added to water, it makes the water heavier or denser. The more salt that is added, the heavier or denser the water becomes. Adding salt to water helps to improve its “floating power.” Therefore, ships ride higher in ocean water than they do in fresh water. It is also easier to float in the ocean than it is to float in a swimming pool.

WRITING PROMPT:

You just saw what happened to a potato when it is placed in salted water.

Think about why some objects float and some sink.

Now write why it is important for people who cannot swim to wear life jackets when they are around water.

Parent Signature: _____

**FAMILY SCIENCE PROJECT**

Date: _____

Name: _____

Teacher: _____

Hypothesis (What do you think will happen?)

Date/Observation:

Conclusion: (What you learned or discovered):

*(*You may continue your observation on another sheet. You may want to create a graph to record your data.)*

For the reading portion of Family Science, you may choose to read a book or an article, OR you may use the Internet in order to find some background information concerning this Family Science Project. If you read a book or an article, please include the complete title and author. If instead you looked up the information on the Internet, please include the complete website.

We read the following book, **OR** researched the information on the Internet:

Book Title: _____ Author: _____

Internet-Complete Website _____

Writing Prompt (minimum 3 sentences)
