

# Whitney Water Center Learning from Home

## Episode 19: Sinking and Floating

### Introduction

Molecules make up everything, the closer together the molecules, the denser the object. The further apart the molecules, the less dense the object. The space between the molecules allows for more air in the object; air is less dense than water, which means it helps the object float. The denser an object, the quicker it will sink.

### Experiment 1: Sinking and Floating.

#### Materials

- Container with water or the sink
- Small objects around the house (make sure it is okay they can get wet).

#### Extension

The shape of an object plays a role in floating and sinking as well. Try this with modeling clay or play-doh. Roll the play-doh into a tight ball and put it in the water. Did it sink or float? Take the ball out of the water, dry the surface, and re-shape it flat, like a raft. Place it back in the water. What happened this time? The shape of the object will affect how the weight is distributed on the surface of the water.

### Experiment 2: Does shape matter?

#### Materials

- Container with water or the sink
- Play-doh

#### Link to video

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/scctrwa/videos/866845573798067/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1rd8GjiYMzM&feature=youtu.be>