

Buoyancy Experiment Tips

Read below for extra tips to help you complete your science experiments.



Paper Marbling

- The consistency of the paint is important when making the paint float. Try these tricks:
 - Your paint should float and spread out across the surface of the size. If it doesn't, it will not stick to your paper. Try dipping the pipette into the paint and flicking the pipette to create spatters on the size.
 - If your paint is too thin in the cups, alternatively try squeezing paint into your pipette from the small paint containers instead and then make drops on the surface of the size. It may help to have more concentrated paint.
 - If your paint is too thick to squeeze from the pipette, add more water, drop by drop. Be careful not to add too much.
- Be careful when handling hot water. Ask an adult for help. Wrap a towel around the container when touching the hot surface.
- While methylcellulose and alum powders are not harmful, do not ingest the powders. Keep out of reach of small children.
- Allow time for the methylcellulose mixture to thicken and cool. Remember to shake or stir the mixture periodically.
- The methylcellulose mixture can be preserved in the refrigerator for up to a week. You may notice it becomes more jelly-like at the bottom of the container with time.
- If you run out of paper or paint, experiment with index cards or acrylic paint.



Float Your Boat

- Add the coins to your aluminum boats one at a time. Place them evenly at the bottom of the boat so the weight of the coins isn't on one side.
- Make sure there is enough water in the basin. It should be no less than 3 inches deep.
- Be aware of leaks in your boats. Fold and tuck the edges of the aluminum sheets to avoid leaks and cracks.



Wave Maker

- Have paper towels handy to wipe off any oil from the bottle, or for any spills.
- For added interest, drop a small piece of cork, plastic or wood into your bottle to act as your "boat." See if it floats and have it ride the waves.