



Do Soda Cans Sink or Float?



Materials:

- Large bucket/container
- Water
- Different UNOPENED soda cans (try to get a variety, some should be regular and some should be diet)

Procedure:

1. Have the student/child fill the bucket/container with water. Make sure there is enough water in the container so it is easy to see which cans are sinking and which ones are floating.
2. The student/child can carefully place the cans in the water. The can should be tipped on its side when placed in the water so no air is trapped at the bottom since this could alter results.
3. Have the student/child observe their findings. What kind of soda sunk and what kind was able to float?

The Science Behind It:

Density is the reason behind the floating/sinking. Diet sodas are less dense than water, meaning they float. Regular sodas, on the other hand, sink. This is because diet sodas contain artificial sweeteners, and not a lot of them. Regular sodas contain large quantities of sugar which makes the soda more dense than water.

Standards Used:

Ohio:

- 5-PS1-3 Make observations and measurements to identify materials based on their properties.
- 2-PS1-2 Analyze data obtained from testing different materials to determine which materials have the properties that are best suited for an intended purpose.

Pennsylvania:

- S4.A.2.1.4 State a conclusion that is consistent with the information/data.
- S4.A.2.1.4a Recognize the observation that supports a scientific fact.
- S.K-2.A.2.1.2 Describe outcomes of an investigation.



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