

SUMMER CAMPS

MIDLAND
CENTER
FOR THE
ARTS

Salt Water Density Experiment

Description: Explore buoyancy and density in the experiment that compares salt water and fresh water.

Recommended Ages: PreK – 3rd

Materials:

- Small plastic jewels
- Water
- Salt
- Plastic cups
- Masking tape
- Permanent marker
- Plastic spoons
- Craft sticks
- Bowls

Procedure:

1. Label three cups, #1, #2, and #3. Leave cup #1 without salt. In cup #2, add 4 spoon-scoops of salt. In cup #3, add 8 scoops of salt. Add water to each cup, with enough extra room at top to stir & add the beads without spilling!
2. Have campers stir until salt is completely dissolved.
3. Drop in 2-3 plastic jewels in each cup. Observe what happens? Do some jewels float while others sink? Do some sink slower?

Explanation:

As you add salt, you add more “stuff” into the water. When there is more “stuff” packed into the water or another liquid, we say that is more dense- which makes it easier for things to float!

Animals that live in the ocean have different adaptations to be able to survive in saltier water.