

7. Experiments with Water



What floats – what sinks?

Ayesha was waiting for dinner. Today *Ammi* was making her favourite food – *puri* and spicy potatoes.

Ayesha watched as her mother rolled out the *puri* and put it in the hot oil. She saw that at first the *puri* sank to the bottom of the pan. As it puffed up, the *puri* came up and started floating on the oil. One *puri* did not puff up and did not float like the others. On seeing this, Ayesha took some dough and rolled it into a ball. She flattened it and put it in a bowl of water. Alas! it sank to the bottom and stayed there.



Think what would happen if

- ♦ Ayesha put a puffed *puri* in a bowl of water. Would it sink or float?
- ♦ You put a steel plate on water. Would it sink or float? What would happen to a spoon?
- ♦ Would the cap of a plastic bottle sink or float on water?

In the evening Ayesha went for a bath. She had just come out when her mother called, “Ayesha, you have dropped the soap in the water again. Take it out and put it in the soap case.” Ayesha was in a hurry and the soap case fell out of





her hands. It started floating on water. Ayesha gently put the soap in the soap case. She saw that the case continued to float, even with the soap in it.

Have you seen that some thing float on water while others sink? Think how this happens! The poem here raises such questions.

Why, Oh Why?

A wooden boat
in water will float.
But a needle will sink!
Why does this happen?
Let me think...

An iron ship
will also float,
though its' much heavier
than my boat!

But a needle,
light as a leaf,
thin as a pin,
will sink right in!

Why does this happen?
Let me think...

– Shishir Shobhan Ashthana
Chakmak, December 1985
(Translated by Anupa Lal)



Do this and find out

Do this experiment in groups of four friends. Each group will need a big pot filled with water and the things listed in the table. Put each thing one-by-one in water and observe. Write your observations in the table given on the next page.















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