

Diving Drops and Sinking Feelings

EQUIPMENT	Jam jar with lid, Cooking oil, Food colouring, Eye dropper, Syrup
PREPARATION	Collecting materials.
BACKGROUND INFORMATION	Oil is lighter than water and so will sit on top of it. Syrup is heavier than water and so will sink to the bottom.
SKILLS	Observing
	Experimenting
ACTIVITY	Diving Drops: Half fill the jar with water. Carefully, by tilting the jar, fill the remaining space in the jar with cooking oil. What happens? (The oil stays on top because it is lighter than water). Now, using the eye dropper put one or two drops of food colouring into the jar. What happens? (The drops sit on top of the water layer). Wait a few seconds and watch the jar closely. Put the lid on the jar and rock it gently back and forth – you've invented a wave machine! (the colouring will eventually burst through the surface of the water and stream into the water). Sinking Feelings (demonstration): Pour syrup into the jar until about a quarter full. Add about the same amount of water with food colouring added. Pour some cooking oil on top. (Three levels of liquid should be clearly visible).
SAFETY	Care with liquids.
FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES	Children can experiment with other transparent everyday liquids. They could try floating different objects in the liquids.



