



Floating Eggs

Have you ever been swimming in a lake? What about the ocean? How do you think swimming in fresh water compares to swimming in salt water?

Swimming in the ocean is easier because of the salt. The salt water has a higher density and, therefore, makes it easier to float.

Let's try a floating experiment!

Here's all you need

- salt
- water
- a tablespoon
- a tall glass
- a fresh egg

Here's what to do:

1. Fill the glass half-full with water. Carefully place the egg inside the glass. What happens?
2. Carefully remove the egg from the water.
3. Add four tablespoons of salt to the water and stir well.
4. Place the egg in the salt water. What happens? (If the egg doesn't float, add more salt.)
5. After the egg floats, slowly add fresh water to the mixture. What happens?



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Steps 4 and 5

Here's more about floating:

The egg floats in salt water and sinks in fresh water because salt water is more dense than fresh water. When you dissolve the salt particles in the water, the salt takes up space and makes the salt water more dense than the plain water. The increased density makes it easier for the egg to float.

The Great Salt Lake in Utah is a rare example of a lake that contains high levels of salt. As the lake level rises, the salt level decreases because the same amount of salt is dissolved in more water. The lower the lake level, the saltier the lake becomes, and the higher the density. Although the lake level varies, it has been reported to be anywhere from 5-27% saltier than the ocean. That means you can float with very little effort in the Great Salt Lake.

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