

Magic Lesson 1: The Floating Egg

Sometimes a magician seems to make things float in air. In this project you won't make things float in air, but you will make an egg float in water.

Materials

Quart (liter) jar, tap water, scissors, ruler, masking tape, ½ cup salt, felt-tip pen, uncooked egg, large spoon

The Setup

- 1 Fill the jar half full of water
- 2 Cut a 3" piece of tape and stick it to the outside of the salt container. Use the pen to write on the tape, "Magic Swimming Powder."
- 3 Place the egg and spoon on the table

Magic Science Time!

- 1 Tell your audience, "I am going to teach an egg how to swim."
- 2 Begin by showing the audience that the egg doesn't know how to swim by placing the egg in the jar filled with tap water. The egg will sink to the bottom. Remove the egg from the jar with the spoon.
- 3 Tell the audience that for the egg to swim you need to add magic swimming powder to the water. Pour the salt in the water and stir with the spoon. Say some magic words!
- 4 Place the egg in the water. The egg will float!

Discussion

- How did the magic powder help the egg float?
- What was created by mixing the powder in the water?
- Why didn't the egg float without the powder?

Explanation

All matter floats or sinks depending on its density. Less dense substances float on more dense substances. The egg floats in salt water because the egg is less dense than the salt water. However, the egg is denser than tap water, so it sinks.

Salt water is a solution that contains both salt and water. A solution occurs when a solid is dissolved in a liquid.

