



Curiosity Guide #305

Buoyancy

Accompanies Curious Crew, Season 3, Episode 5 (#305)

Crazy Raisins

Investigation #1

Description

Amaze your friends and family with this neat science trick!

Materials

- Clear glass jar or drinking glass
- 10 to 15 fresh raisins
- Fresh club soda, or use a can of 7-Up or Sprite

Procedure

- 1) Pour club soda in the glass container so that the container is at least three-fourths full.
- 2) Drop in 10 to 15 raisins.
- 3) What do you notice?
- 4) Continue to watch for the next several minutes.
- 5) What's happening?

My Results

Explanation

The carbonated liquid releases carbon dioxide bubbles. As the bubbles rise through the liquid, some of the bubbles stick to the sides of each raisin. When the bubbles attach to a raisin, they make the raisin more buoyant, causing the raisin to float the top. As the bubbles pop, the raisin once again sinks. The bubbles act just like a life jacket for the raisin and change the density of the raisin, making it less dense than a similar volume of the liquid. As a result, the raisin floats.

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