



MAGIC FLOATING CARROT

Explore density by creating a solution.

Materials

Piece of carrot (sliced into a coin)
Water
Clear cup or glass
Salt
Spoon



Note: Use a small amount of water to avoid using too much salt.

Procedure

- Fill the glass with 3-4 inches of water.
- Drop in the piece of carrot. What happened to the carrot?
- Slowly add salt to the water and stir until the carrot floats to the top.

Results

The carrot that sank to the bottom now floats!

Why?

The carrot originally sank to the bottom of the glass of water because it was more dense than the water. Dissolving the salt in water adds more matter to the water, making it more dense. When you add enough salt to the water, it eventually becomes more dense than the carrot and the carrot floats on top of the water.

This activity was adapted from the American Chemical Society's "Middle School Chemistry" activities. You can find more activities on their website, acs.org