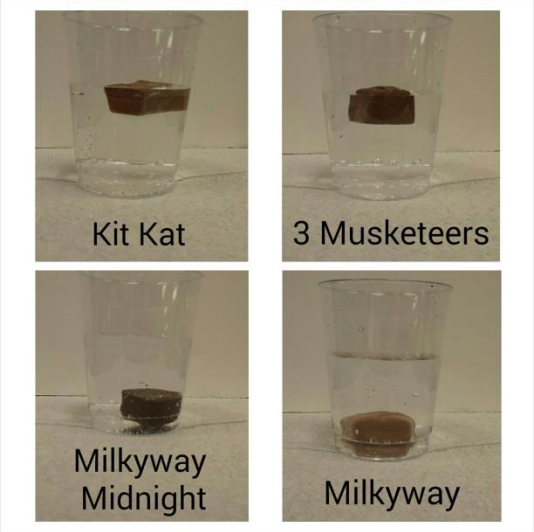
California State University of Bakersfield, Department of Chemistry

Floating Candy



Standards:

2-PS1-1. Plan and conduct an investigation to describe and classify different kinds of materials by their observable properties.

2-PS1-2. Analyze data obtained from testing different materials to determine which materials have the properties that are best suited for an intended purpose.

Introduction:

Have you ever wondered why some objects float and others sink? Floating and sinking are determined by density. But what is density? Density is the degree of compactness in a substance. In this experiment you will learn why some objects, such a candy bars, sink and others float and how their density affects them.

Materials:

- Pens
- Paper
- Assorted mini candy bars (Twix, 3 Musketeers, Snickers, Kit Kat, Milky Way, Starburst)
- Bowl of Water

This material is based upon work supported by the CSUB Revitalizing Science University Program (REVS-UP) funded by Chevron Corporation. Opinions or points of view expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Corporation or CSUB.

Safety:

- Always have an adult with you to help you during your experiment.
- Always wear eye protection and gloves when doing chemistry experiments

Procedure:

1. Make a chart.
2. Ask kids to mark their predictions about whether each candy bar will sink or float.
3. Unwrap each candy bar and drop them in the water.
4. Record whether they sink or float.

Data and Observations:

1. Record your observations in this space.

Questions:

2. Which candies floated and which candies sank? Why?

3. Does the weight of the candy determine whether it sinks or floats?

4. What other objects float in water?

References:

1. "Sink or Float Candy Science ~ Reading Confetti." Sink or Float Candy Science ~ Reading Confetti. N.p., n.d. Web. 22 July 2014.

This material is based upon work supported by the CSUB Revitalizing Science University Program (REVS-UP) funded by Chevron Corporation. Opinions or points of view expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Corporation or CSUB.