Name: _____ Date: _____

Why an Apple Floats in the Sink

Circle group

Fill a sink with water. Put in an apple. Plop! The apple does not sink. It bobs on top.

Why? An apple has tiny spaces inside. The spaces hold air. Air is light. It helps the apple float.

A grape has few air spaces. It sinks.

Some farms use water at harvest time. The apples float, so they are easy to catch.

Questions

1. Where do we put the apple?

_____

_____

2. Does the apple sink or float?

_____

_____

3. What is in the tiny spaces of an apple?

_____

_____

4. What does a grape do in water?

_____

_____

5. Why does an apple float but a grape sink?

_____

_____

Words to know

float: to stay on top of water
sink: to go down under the water
bob: to move up and down on water
tiny: very, very small

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Why an Apple Floats in the Sink

Triangle group

Fill a sink with water. Put in a whole apple. Plop! The apple does not sink. It bobs on top.

Why does it float? Look inside an apple. It has a lot of tiny spaces. The spaces are full of air. Air is very light. It helps the apple stay on top of the water.

Now think of a grape. It has few air spaces. It sinks.

Apples float, so some farms use water at harvest time. The water helps move the apples. A bobbing apple is easy to catch.

Questions

1. Where do we put the apple in this story?

_____

_____

2. Does the apple sink or float?

_____

_____

3. What fills the tiny spaces inside an apple?

_____

_____

4. What does a grape do in water?

_____

_____

5. Why does an apple float but a grape sink?

_____

_____

Words to know

float: to stay on top of water
sink: to go down under the water
bob: to move up and down on water
tiny: very, very small

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Why an Apple Floats in the Sink

Square group

Imagine filling a kitchen sink with water and dropping in a whole apple. Plop! Instead of sinking, the apple bobs along on the surface.

Why does it float? If you could look inside an apple, you would find lots of tiny spaces. Those spaces are filled with air, and air is very light, so it helps the apple stay on top of the water.

A grape is different. It has only a few air spaces inside, so it sinks right down.

Because apples float, some farms use water at harvest time. The water helps carry the apples along, and a bobbing apple is easy to catch.

Questions

1. What do we drop into the sink full of water?

_____

_____

2. Does the apple sink or float on the surface?

_____

_____

3. What fills the tiny spaces inside an apple?

_____

_____

4. What does a grape do when it is put in water?

_____

_____

5. Why does an apple stay on top of the water while a grape goes down?

_____

_____

Words to know

float: to stay on top of water
sink: to go down under the water
bob: to move up and down on water

tiny: very, very small

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Why an Apple Floats in the Sink

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Why an Apple Floats in the Sink

Easier · 62 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.6

1. In a sink full of water.
2. It floats.
3. Air.
4. It sinks.
5. An apple has a lot of air inside, but a grape has few air spaces.

Triangle: Why an Apple Floats in the Sink

This passage · 90 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1

1. In a sink full of water.
2. It floats.
3. Air.
4. It sinks.
5. An apple has a lot of air inside, but a grape has few air spaces.

Square: Why an Apple Floats in the Sink

Harder · 106 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.5

1. A whole apple.
2. It floats.
3. Air.
4. It sinks.
5. An apple has lots of air inside, but a grape has only a few air spaces.