

JR-SCIENTISTS

FLOATING CANDLE

This simple but fascinating experiment can be done quickly with supplies you likely have at home!

INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1: Put about a half inch of water into a bowl. Add food coloring if you like.

STEP 2: Set a tea candle in the water and light it.

ADULT SUPERVISION REQUIRED!

STEP 3: Cover the candle with a glass, setting it in the bowl of water.

STEP 4: Now watch what happens!

SUPPLIES

Tea light candle
Glass
Bowl of water
Food coloring
(optional)
Matches

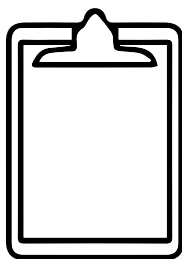
THE SCIENCE

The candle raises the temperature of the air and it expands. The fire uses up all of the oxygen in the glass and the candle goes out. Then the air cools. This creates a vacuum that sucks up the water from the outside of the glass, and raises the candle up on the water that enters the inside of the glass.



Floating Candle Observations

Use this worksheet to process and evaluate your work.



RECORD

What did you observe? What changes did you notice?

How long did the candle remain lit? Why did it go out?

Why did the water behave the way it did?

What did you learn about physical reactions?
