

## Lesson Plan: Different Levels of Density!

**Area:** Physical Science

**Age Group:** 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Supplies Needed:

- 7 small clear plastic cups
- Light corn syrup
- Vegetable Oil
- Milk
- Water with food coloring
- Other objects of the same size

### Introduction:

- Ask students what they think density is and any examples of it
- Fill in the blank: Density is important because it lets me \_\_\_\_\_.

### Demonstration:

#### Part 1:

- Pour liquids in each glass in the order shown below. Pour out a glass of each liquid combination, so you will have 3 filled glasses in total.
- Corn syrup, milk, oil
- Milk, oil, corn syrup
- Oil, corn syrup, milk
- What happened? Draw your observations. Why did this happen? Organize the liquids from most to least dense.

#### Part 2:

- Pour out a little of each liquid in separate glasses. Include a glass with a little water in it. So, you will have 4 glasses of liquids in total.
- Try dropping each of the different objects in the liquids. In which liquids did it sink? In which liquids did it float? Record.
- Which objects floated the most? Which objects sank the most? Organize the objects for most to least dense.

### Directions:

- Separate students into groups of four and have them perform the demonstrations on their own
- Ask them to write down their observations
- Have a class discussion and answer the questions posed above

### Follow-Up:

- Other examples of where density is important?
- Swimming? Floating?
- Brain pop video!

**Source:** <http://www.canteach.ca/elementary/physical8.html>