

What sinks? What floats?

Focus

After a storm lots of different things arrive at Wetalla Waste Water Treatment plant with the stormwater. How did they get there? Did they float or just get pushed along?

Materials

Various objects of

- iron,
- wood,
- aluminium,
- plastic, etc.

Procedure

- Write in the table, which objects you think will float and which won't.

Your hypothesis

floats in water	does not float in water

- Write in the table, which objects did float and which ones didn't.

Results after testing

floats in water	does not float in water

EXTENSION – SENIOR PRIMARY OR JUNIOR HIGH GROUPS

Materials

- samples of equal-sized pieces of different substances,
- mostly cubes of about 1cm^3 in size,
- a precise scale to weigh the specimens (electronic scales)

Procedure

- Weigh the specimens and note the exact values in the table! HINT: 1cm^3 water is the same as 1ml water and weighs 1gram!

Substance	Weight in grams
Iron	
Water	
Wood	
Aluminium	

- Q What do you notice about these values?
- Q Do you have an explanation for why it floats or doesn't float?