



Use straws to create a device or vehicle that floats.

GET YOUR GEAR

plastic bendy straws

small tub of water

play dough

tape



HINT:

Think about things that float (rafts, life vests, pool toys). Can you design something similar?

S

Air bubbles float to the top of water because they are less dense than water. How can you trap air to help things float?

T

What items could you use to replace the straws? Why?

E

Can your device hold weight? Try adding coins or flat marbles. Change your design so it can hold more weight.

A

Use what you know about sinking and floating to create a game or toy to use in a pool.

M

Does adding straws to your device help it hold more weight? How much more can it hold if you add one straw? Two? Five?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Both plastic straws and air are lighter, or less **dense**, than water. Objects that are less dense will float. Objects that are more dense, like marbles and rocks, will sink.

You may have trapped air in the straw. The air and straw together are more buoyant (float better) than just the straw alone. Or, you may have attached several straws to create a raft. Both methods combine the buoyancy of objects so they have the power to hold up a heavy, dense marble.