

Floating fruit

What you need



A tall, clear glass



Some raisins



Some clear, fizzy drink that has a lot of bubbles
(this won't work if it's not very fizzy)

What to do

- pour the fizzy drink into the glass.
- drop in a raisin
- wait for 20 to 30 seconds to see what happens.

What's happening?

You should have seen the raisin float to the top of the glass after 20 to 30 seconds. This is because the bubbles of carbon dioxide that are being released by the fizzy drink stick to the sides of the raisin to make it more buoyant – just like a mini life jacket.

What happens if you wait a bit longer? You should find that the raisin will start to sink after a while. This is because the gas in the bubbles escapes once they reach the surface of the glass. Once the raisin has sunk, the process can start again.

Now that you've tried a raisin how about experimenting with other things.

You could try anything....

How about some of these to get you started:

a brazil nut;
a dried pasta shape;
a dried chickpea or
a safety pin.

Think about how you can get more of the carbon dioxide gas bubbles to stick to the objects and make them float more easily.