

Just Keep Swimming



Supplies:

small glass bottle, bathtub or large container that the bottle can float in, waterproof tape, water, balloon that fits in the bottle, plastic tubing that can fit inside the bottle (at least 1 ft) (if you do not have plastic tubing try to tape straws together with the waterproof tape)

How to Start:

1. Push one end of the tube or straw through the opening in the balloon and tape them together. Double-check that you can inflate the balloon by blowing through the tube/straws
2. Put balloon inside the glass bottle and tape the tube or straw to the bottle opening (bottle should be able to fill with water)
3. Fill your container with water

The Experiment:

1. Place the bottle with the balloon inside of the tub of water. Keep one end of the tube/straws outside of the tub
2. Blow through the tube so the balloon inflates a little
3. Inflate the balloon until it takes up most of the bottle
4. Let the balloon deflate
5. Try inflating and deflating the balloon more or less and see what the bottle does



Questions to Answer:

- **What happened when you placed the bottle in the water?**
- **Did inflating the balloon a little change the floating behavior?**
- **What happened when you fully inflated the balloon?**
- **How did deflating the balloon change its position in the water?**



What is going on?

The glass bottle represents the body of the fish. The balloon represents the swim bladder found inside the body of fish. If a fish did not have a swim bladder it would sink to the bottom of the ocean, and be full of water. As a swim bladder inflates it pushes water outside the body of the fish and it becomes more buoyant. A swim bladder is what allows fish to remain in or move between depths of the ocean, just like in your container!