

A Brackish Experiment With Salt Water and Fresh Water

LEARNING GOALS

To learn about the density of water.

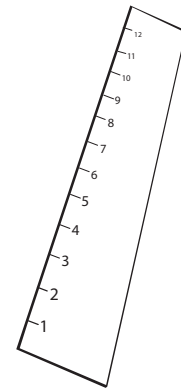
To stimulate thought about the mixing of fresh and salt water.

BACKGROUND

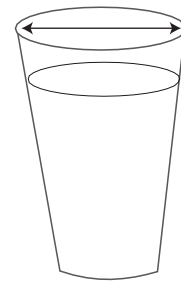
The marine life in an estuary must adapt to the constant changes of water in order to survive. Try this experiment to learn more about a few of the differences between salt water and fresh water. Then find out what happens when salt water meets and gradually mixes with fresh water.

MATERIALS

- two clear plastic cups (10 oz.)
- two slices of raw potato
- salt
- tablespoon
- measuring cup
- water
- food coloring
- knife
- ruler



Measure diameter of cup



DIRECTIONS

1. Measure the diameter of the top of each cup.
2. Cut two 1-inch slices of potato that will fit in the cup.
3. Fill each cup with 8 ounces of water.
4. Add 3 tablespoons of salt to the first cup.
5. Add food coloring to the water in the second cup.
6. Place one slice of potato in each cup.
7. Record your observations.
8. Add 2 more tablespoons of salt to the first cup and stir.
9. Record your observations.
10. Remove the potato from the second cup.
11. Very slowly, pour some of the colored water from the second cup on top of the potato in the first cup.
12. Record your observations.
13. Gently stir the water.
14. Record your observations.
15. Write a summary describing what you learned by conducting the experiment.

