

STEM

starts now

Floating Oranges

Recommended Age: 25–30 Months

STEM concepts: Science (physical science, life science), Technology (Simple tools), Math (number sense)

Materials: 2 oranges, water, medium-large clear plastic container, magnifying glass

What to do: Fill a clear plastic container with enough water to allow the oranges to float. Before beginning have your child to look at the orange and explore its features with their hands and magnifying glass. Peel an orange and keep the skin. Now have your child explore the orange. Have them smell it. Using the magnifying glass, have your child examine the interior of the orange. Have your child predict which one will float. Place the oranges in the water and observe what happens.

Language and Communication: Ask your child what they know about oranges. Discuss the color, shape and taste of them. Talk with your child about where oranges grow. What type of climate and plant/tree they need to grow? Tell your child that the outside of the orange is called the rind or the skin. Ask your child how the skin feels. Ask them how the orange smells. Before placing the orange in the water, ask your child if the orange with its skin or without its skin will float or sink. Explain that floating is when the orange sits on the top of the water and sinking is when it will fall into the water and go to the bottom. After placing the oranges in the water tell your child that air gets trapped between the flash and skin to allow the orange to float.

Expand the Activity: Use the orange pieces to do some math. Show them that there are sections, and these are parts of the orange and when they are all put together it is a whole. Divide them in half and discuss half and whole.

