

Sailing Ships and Sinking Spoons

A Guide for Teachers and Parents



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THEMES

STEAM

SUB-THEMES

Scientific Curiosity

Observation and Reasoning

Hands-on Learning

Story Discussion Guide

- Understand the concept of flotation and why some objects float or sink.
- Practice observation and experimentation in simple settings.
- Develop a questioning and scientific mindset.
- Appreciate cultural settings as a backdrop for learning

Lesson plan

This story helps introduce young learners to the basics of flotation through a relatable and culturally rooted narrative. It encourages experimentation and nurtures curiosity.

Learning Outcome

Before Reading:

- Have you ever seen something float in water?
- What was it? What sinks? Why do you think that happens?

During Reading :

- What question are the boys curious about?
- How does Miss Sonam help them learn?
- What do they do with the apple and spoon?

After Reading:

- Why do you think a spoon sinks but a ship floats?
- Can we learn about science from everyday questions?
- What other objects can you test to see if they float?

Activities:

- Sink or Float Experiment: Children gather household items and predict what will sink or float, then test them in a water tub.
- Draw & Label: Create a drawing of a boat and label what helps it float (shape, hollow base, etc.).
- STEAM Storytime: Talk about other science questions children have and how they might explore them.
- Mini Boat Challenge: Use foil or paper to make mini boats and test their ability to float while holding small weights (buttons, coins).

Applicable SDGs

- SDG 4: Quality Education
- SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

SDG Explanation

- SDG 4: Encourages critical thinking and foundational science education.
- SDG 9: Fosters a culture of experimentation and innovation from an early age.

ABOUT ZAMASAMA

Zamasama is a nonprofit initiative that curates children's stories from diverse cultures and lived experiences around the world. It gives children a window into other communities—and a mirror that affirms their own, helping children recognize the shared humanity that connects us across differences. Through narratives that gently challenge biases and broaden worldviews, Zamasama helps children see difference not as a barrier but as a bridge. Through the power of stories, we sow the seeds of pluralism that can grow into a more harmonious world for all.