

Activity Instructions

The following items will be needed for this activity:

per group:

- pitcher of water
- measuring cup
- clear plastic cup
- vegetable oil
- tablespoon
- salt

Step 1

Fill the plastic cup three-quarters full with water. Students can practice using a measuring cup by dispensing the exact volume of water determined in the *Prep Instructions*.



Figure 1

Step 2

Pour oil into the plastic cup, such that a layer of oil at least 1 cm thick forms above the water level (**Figure 1**). Students can practice using a tablespoon by dispensing the exact volume of oil determined in the *Prep Instructions*.



Figure 2

Step 3

Add salt until oil droplets begin to sink to the bottom of the cup. Observe that some of the oil droplets at the bottom of the cup begin to float back to the surface (**Figure 2**).

Step 4

Adding additional salt once the droplets start rising will cause the droplets to descend again. The sinking and rising of the oil droplets can be repeated until the water becomes saturated with salt.