

Activity Idea

Dancing Raisins

Recommended for Ages 4 – 8

Turn up the music for a fun kitchen chemistry experiment!

Materials

Clear soda, tall clear glass, 6-10 raisins

Instructions

1. Fill the glass halfway full of clear soda.
2. Slowly drop the raisins one at a time into the soda.
3. Observe! What is happening to the raisin?

Experiment Explained:

Raisins are heavier and denser than soda and will initially sink to the bottom of the glass. As the raisins sink, the gas bubbles or carbon dioxide bubbles attach to its rough surface. These bubbles give the raisins the ability to rise or float in liquid which is scientifically known as buoyancy. Once the raisins float to the top of the surface, the bubbles pop and gas escapes into the air causing the raisin to sink back to the bottom. The raisins will continue to rise and sink until all the bubbles escape and the soda goes flat or the raisins become soggy and are too heavy to float.

Experiment Extended:

Try the experiment with a variety of clear sodas. Which clear soda makes the raisins dance the most? Do you think there are any other items that will rise and sink in soda? Try the experiment with macaroni, grapes, raisins, corn, etc.