

# Floating Egg

**Ages:** 5-10 years

**Benefits:** An easy and interesting experiment that teaches beginning concepts (for older children) of solutions, saturated solutions, and density.

**Materials & Equipment:** one 2-quart pan  
two 1-quart (or larger) glass jars  
One box of salt

A source of heat (stove or hot plate) **Used only by an adult.**

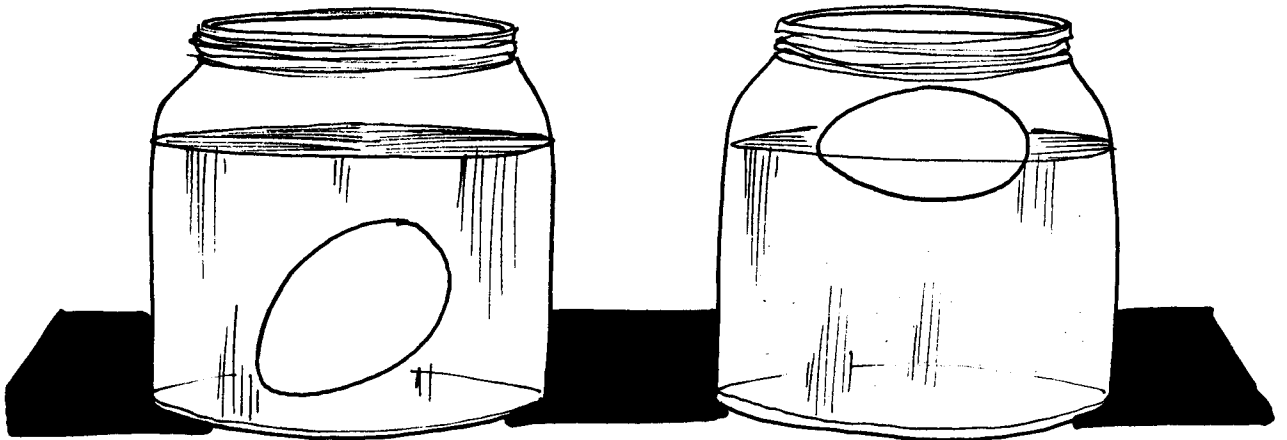
Two or three large spoons

**Directions:** Using a 2-quart pan (a flameproof glass one is ideal), first prepare the saturated solution. Keep adding salt to a quart of boiling water and stir until the water will not take up any more salt. Add water to keep it at the 1-quart level. Let children take turns stirring the solution, emphasizing safety.

After hot solution has cooled, prepare two jars: (1) with plain water and (2) with the cool saturated solution. Carefully place a (raw) egg, in its shell, into the jar of plain water. It will sink. The egg is more dense than the water, therefore it sinks.

Now, place the same or another egg into the saturated salt solution. This solution is more dense than the egg. The egg will float.

Children will learn from the experiment even though they may not understand the concept of density.



**Comments:** Have a dishpan full of cold water available. In case any child gets burned, plunge the burned area into the cold water immediately. With careful supervision and careful placement of the pan on the burner, there should be no danger.

There are two more experiments you can do with the leftover concentrated salt solution, Salt Crystals and Chemical Garden, on the following pages.