

## Directions

Read this article. Then answer questions 10 through 15.

# Float in the Ocean

by Janet F. Hoover

It is easier to float in the ocean than it is to float in a swimming pool. Do you know why?

Ocean water is full of salt—and salt water can hold up more weight than fresh water. See for yourself! (Ask an adult to help you.)

### You Will Need:

- 3 cups warm water
- Measuring cup
- Wide-mouth jar
- Salt
- Spoon
- Raw potato

### You Will Do:

1. Pour  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups of warm water into the jar.
2. Add  $\frac{1}{3}$  cup salt.
3. Stir until the salt is completely dissolved.
4. Add another  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups of water. Pour it slowly over the back of the spoon into the jar so that the two liquids will not mix together.



**Go On**

5. Gently place the potato into the jar.  
Do not drop it.

**What Will Happen:**

The potato will sink—but only halfway!

**Why?**

Salt water is heavier than fresh water, so it will stay on the bottom. The fresh water will remain on top.

The potato is heavier than the fresh water, but it is lighter than the salt water. That is why the potato will sink only halfway down.



- 10** In the experiment, what should you do **right after** you pour the water over the spoon?
- A** Add the salt to the water.
  - B** Stir the salt into the water.
  - C** Place the potato in the jar.
  - D** Pour warm water into the jar.

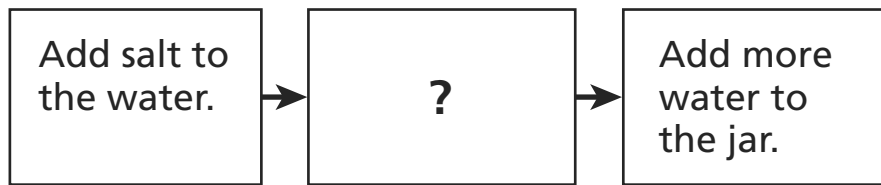
- 11** In Step 4 of the experiment, why do you pour the water over the spoon “slowly”?
- A** It is easier to see what you are doing.
  - B** It will keep the water from splashing out.
  - C** It pushes the fresh water to the bottom.
  - D** It will keep the liquids from mixing together.

- 12** In which step of the experiment do you add the salt?
- A** Step 1
  - B** Step 2
  - C** Step 3
  - D** Step 4

- 13** The article says to gently place the potato into the jar. What does the word “gently” mean?
- A** carefully
  - B** quickly
  - C** secretly
  - D** silently

**Go On**

- 14** The chart below shows steps from the experiment.



Which step **best** belongs in the empty box?

- A** Pour warm water into the jar.
- B** Stir the salt into the water.
- C** Place the potato in the jar.
- D** Pour the water over the spoon.

- 15** What is the **most** important detail about salt water in this article?

- A** A potato will sink in fresh water.
- B** You can make it yourself.
- C** It is heavier than fresh water.
- D** You can find it in the ocean.

**STOP**