

# The Magic Raisin Dance Party

## Materials Needed:

- A clear glass or jar
- Clear carbonated beverage (like seltzer water, club soda, or a clear soda like 7-Up/Sprite)
- A small handful of raisins (about 10-12)

## Learning Objectives: (What we'll learn)

- To practice making a prediction (a scientific guess) about what will happen in an experiment.
- To observe carefully and describe what is happening using simple words (like "up," "down," "bubbles," "float," "sink").
- To understand a simple cause-and-effect relationship (the bubbles make the raisins move).

## Lesson Procedure: (Step-by-Step)

### 1. Step 1: The Setup (2 minutes)

Place the clear glass on a flat surface like a table. Open the carbonated beverage and pour it into the glass until it is about three-quarters full. Take a moment to look at and listen to the bubbles!

### 2. Step 2: Make a Prediction! (3 minutes)

Hold a raisin in your hand. Ask your student: **"What do you think will happen when we drop this raisin into the bubbly water? Will it sink to the bottom or float at the top?"** Let them share their guess. There are no wrong answers here; the goal is to get them thinking like a scientist.

### 3. Step 3: The Experiment (5 minutes)

Gently drop the raisins, one by one, into the glass of carbonated water. At first, they will sink to the bottom. But wait! After a few moments, watch closely. The raisins will start to rise to the surface, fall back down, and rise again. They are dancing!

### 4. Step 4: Talk About It (5 minutes)

As you watch the raisins dance, use these guiding questions to discuss what is happening. This is where the learning happens!

- "Look! What is happening to the raisins now?"
- "What do you see sticking to the raisin? (Bubbles!)"
- "Why do you think the bubbles are lifting the raisin to the top?" (Explain that the bubbles are like tiny floaties, grabbing onto the raisin and carrying it up.)
- "What happens to the bubbles when the raisin gets to the top?" (They pop! This makes the raisin heavy again, so it sinks.)

## **Assessment: (Show what you know)**

Ask your student to draw a picture of the experiment. Ask them to draw the glass, the bubbles, and a raisin going **up** and a raisin going **down**. This simple activity checks their understanding of the key actions they observed.

## **Differentiation: (Extra Ideas)**

- **For Extra Support:**

Focus entirely on the observation part. Use very simple descriptive words. "Look, the raisin goes down. Whee! Now it goes up! Pop go the bubbles!" You can do the pouring and dropping while your student focuses on watching and pointing.

- **For an Extra Challenge:**

Turn it into a comparative experiment. Get another glass and use plain tap water. Ask, "Do you think the raisins will dance in regular water? Let's try it!" They will quickly see that the carbonation (the bubbles) is the key ingredient, reinforcing the concept of cause and effect. You can also try other small items like a piece of pasta, a corn kernel, or a lentil to see if they dance too.

## **Curriculum Alignment:**

This lesson aligns with early science skills and standards, such as the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) practice of "Planning and Carrying Out Investigations." It encourages young learners to ask questions, make observations, and use evidence (what they see) to describe a natural phenomenon in a simple, engaging way.