

**STEPPING STONE**

Show curiosity and interest by facial expression, movement or sound.

EARLY LEARNING GOAL

Investigate objects and materials by using all of their senses as appropriate. (KUW)

ASSESSMENT

Note the questions asked by the children and the curiosity they show.

Dragon Boat Festival

Water

**SPECIAL DAYS: DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL**

June Annual dragon boat races take place as a reminder of a popular leader who drowned himself. In an attempt to ward off predators, followers raced into the river and threw in parcels of rice.

What you need

Aprons; large water tray; wide variety of objects to test for floating and sinking; two trays; labels.

Preparation

Prepare the area for water play, collect the materials, label the trays 'floats' and 'sinks', ask the children to wear aprons.

What to do

Allow the children some free play in the water tray. This will give them the opportunity to experiment with the objects and to observe whether they sink or float.

Once they have all had the chance to try some items out, work as a group and take each item in turn to test if it floats or sinks. Ask the children to predict what will happen each time and then test their ideas.

They can use what they found out in free play, and previous experiences when playing, to determine what they think will happen. Finally, sort the objects onto the appropriate labelled trays to indicate 'floats' or 'sinks'.

Discussion

Talk about the observations and predictions as they occur. Remind the children of earlier observations and results and encourage them to transfer this to the new object.

Explain that during the Chinese Dragon Boat festival boat races are held. They relate to the story of Qu Yuan who was a patriot, leader and poet. He felt that the people should join with neighbouring areas to defeat the Kingdom of Chuan. The King refused to follow his advice and sent him away. When he was proved right Qu Yuan tried to kill himself by jumping into the Mik Law River. The people tried to save him but were unable to and his body was never recovered. To protect him from the predators in the river they threw in bamboo tubes filled with rice, in the hope that these would be eaten instead. The bamboo is now replaced by jung gi (savory or sweet rice dishes wrapped in bamboo leaves). The races are a reminder of the race to try to save him. The boats are decorated in bright colours and with dragon heads to frighten the fish.

Follow-up activities

- Sing the song 'Dragon boat race' on page 76 and join in with rowing actions.
- Make a model dragon boat and decorate it with a colourful head.

ON THE CD-ROM

- Poem 'The dragon boats'
- Song 'Dragon Boat race'

Differentiation

With younger children support their play in the water tray and help them explore the objects thoroughly. Let older children work independently.