

Discovering Density

Materials per Group (2/3 students): small clay shape, balance, graduated cylinder with some water, calculators, large beaker, towel (for spills), Student Handout

Procedure:

1. Anchor the lesson with a definition of Density.
2. Compare, draw, and describe the 2 bottles- 1 is empty and the other with water.
3. Set up the chart
4. Fill in row 1 for the shape station they're at-
 - a. Record the shape
 - b. Measure the mass with the balance
 - c. Measure the volume using water displacement method
 - d. Calculate density by dividing mass/volume
5. Before switching stations, have them move back the weights on the balance and reset the water in the cylinder.
6. Switch stations, and continue.
7. Later:
 - a. Make a bar graph to compare densities
 - b. Homework-explain the helium balloon