

SALINITY

THIS SIMPLE EXPERIMENT HELPS ILLUSTRATE THE DIFFERENCE IN DENSITIES BETWEEN FRESH WATER AND SALT WATER.

1. Take 2 beakers/jam-jars and half-fill each with tap water.
2. Label the jars 'fresh water' and 'salt water'.
3. To the jar labelled fresh water add 5 drops of food colouring and stir until all of the water is the same colour.
4. To the jar labelled salt water add about 3 tablespoons of salt and stir until dissolved.
5. Using a stirring rod or spoon, very carefully pour the fresh water down the rod on top of the salt water.

WHAT HAPPENS?

The fresh water should sit in a layer on top of the salt water

WHY?

Because the salt water is denser (or heavier) than the fresh water.



Now think about a river running into the sea. Which body of water contains salt and is therefore more dense than the other? Which body of water would sit on top?