

Racing Raisins

What you'll need:

- A tall glass
- Fizzy water
(we found lemonade worked well)
- Dry food (raisins, pasta, peas...)
- A timer or stopwatch



How you do it:

Drop a raisin into the glass filled with fizzy water.

- Why does the raisin sink?
- How long does the raisin take to rise back to the top?
- Can you race two raisins?
- What happens if you try other dried food?

How does it work?

Raisins are denser than the fizzy water so will start to sink to the bottom. Bubbles of carbon dioxide stick to the rough surface of the raisin and when enough bubbles are attached, the raisin rises to the surface. At the surface, the bubbles burst and the carbon dioxide escapes to the air. But now the raisin is heavier than the water again and will sink. The raisin will continue to rise and sink until most of the carbon dioxide has escaped.



As with all science experiments, make sure you have a responsible person supervise you at all times. And remember to have fun!

