

Kids Science@ the Library

Cranberry Science



You'll need:

- 10 fresh cranberries
- Plate
- Clear glass filled with water
- Meter stick or yard stick
- Plastic knife

- 1.** Drop a cranberry into the glass of water.
Did the cranberry float or sink?

- 2.** Using a plate as a base and a plastic knife, cut one cranberry in half. Draw what you see inside.

How does what you see inside a cranberry explain the results of activity 1?

Taste a cranberry half. What does it taste like?

- 3.** Lean a meter stick up against a wall. Put some cranberries in a small bowl. Hold one of the cranberries at the top of the meter stick and drop it. Does it bounce? How high? Record how many berries bounced well, and how many didn't bounce well.

What's going on?

Cranberries float because of the hollow chambers inside them. Modern farmers take advantage of this when harvesting. To learn more, sign into SPL's Kanopy Kids, and watch "Cranberries".

Fun Fact

John Webb, an early cranberry farmer, discovered that good cranberries bounce! Because he had a wooden leg and couldn't walk down stairs, he dropped his cranberries down the stairs instead. He noticed that the firmest berries bounced to the bottom, but the rotten ones stayed on the steps.