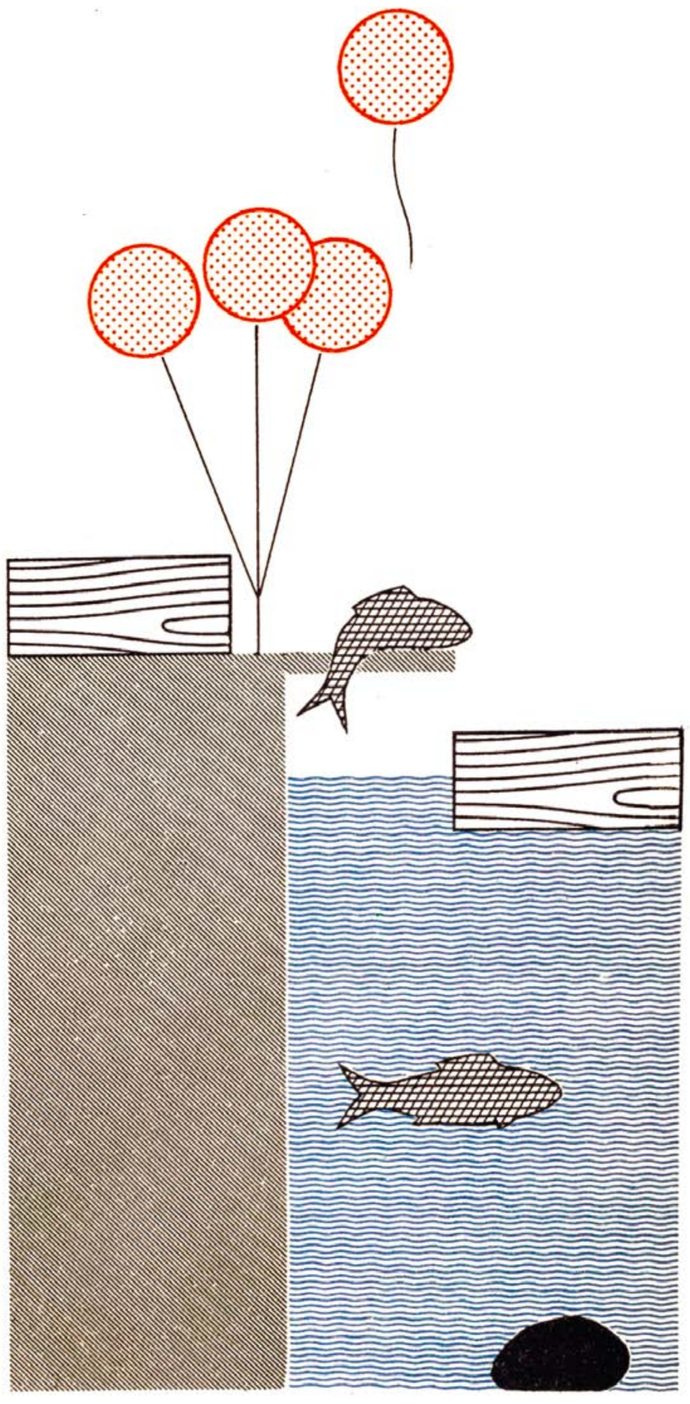
Visual science

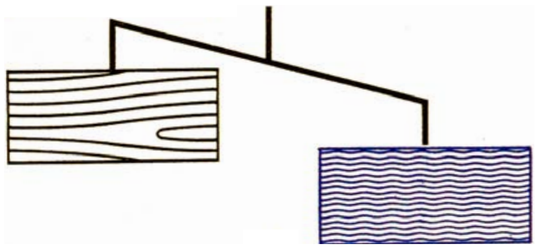
How do things float?

- Touch the pink buttons and see what happens.
- Use the arrows to move backwards and forwards.
- Touch the cross to close a window.

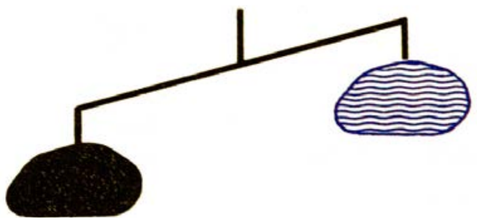
How do things float?



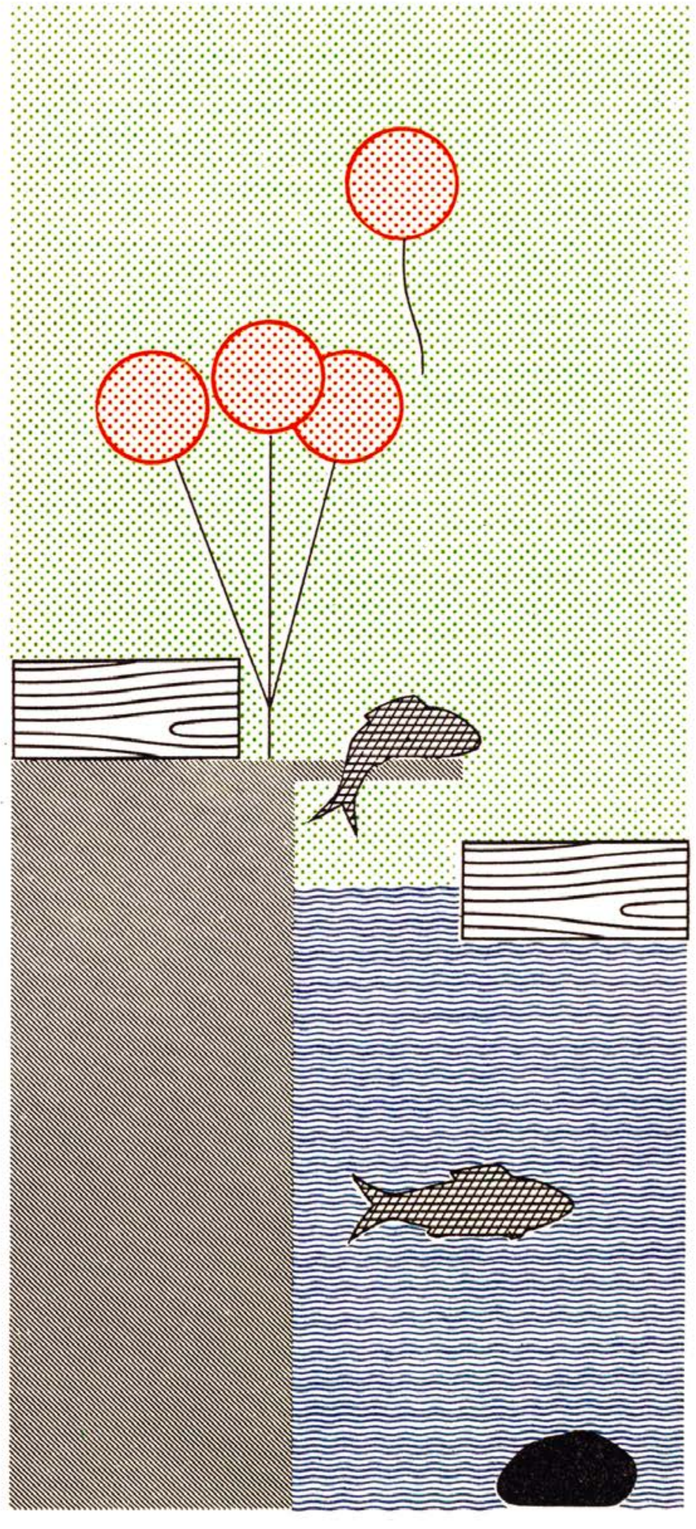
The log floats because it is lighter, size for size, than the water.



The rock sinks because it is much denser by size than the water.



How do things float?

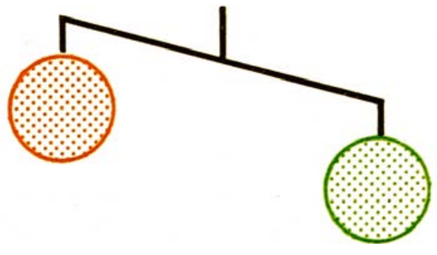


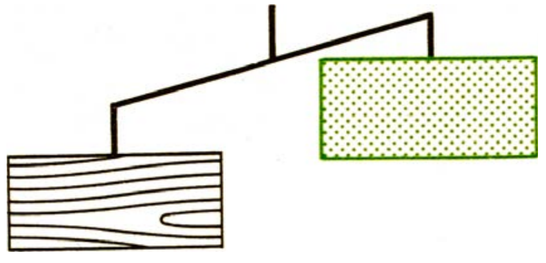
Why does the balloon float in the air?

What is the balloon filled with?

The balloon is filled with helium, which is lighter, size for size, than air.

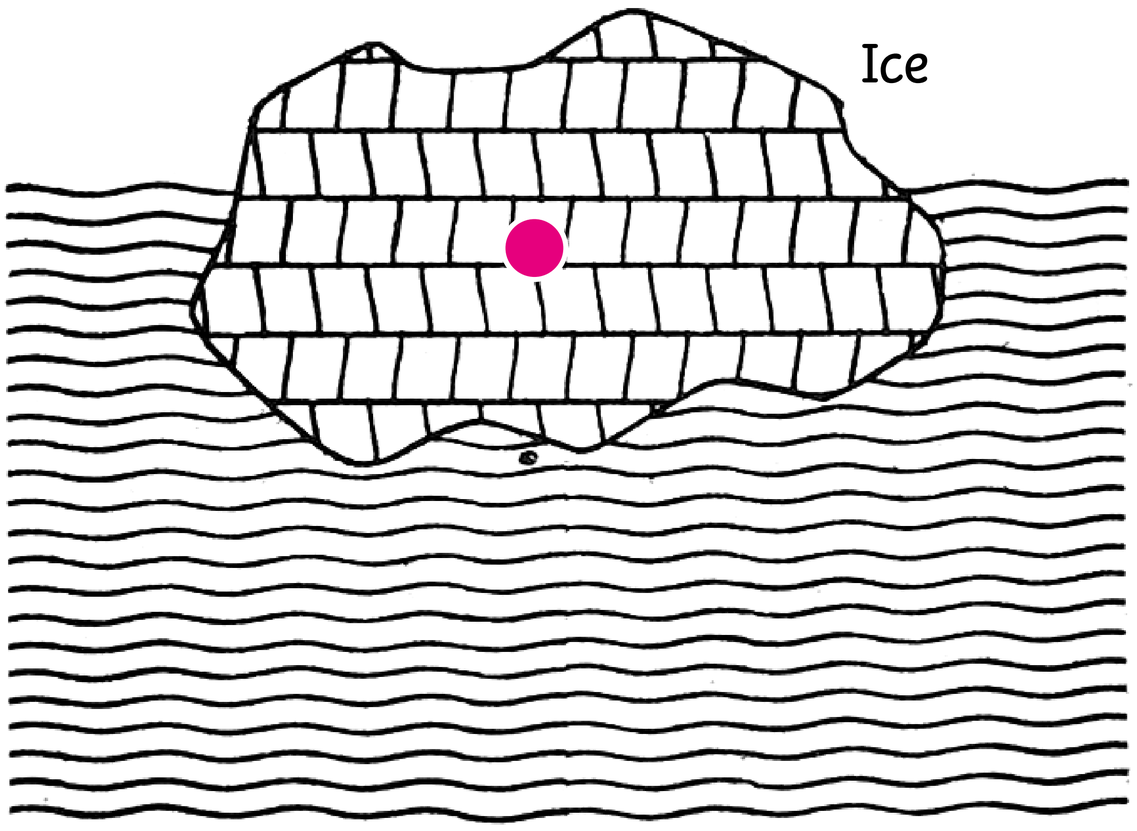
The log is heavier, size for size, than air.



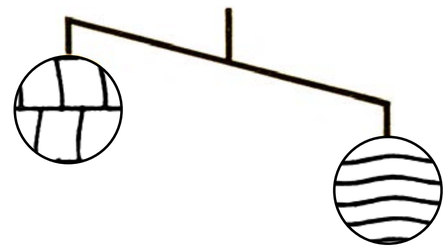


How do things float?

Why does an iceberg float on water?



Ice floats on water because it is lighter, size for size, than water.

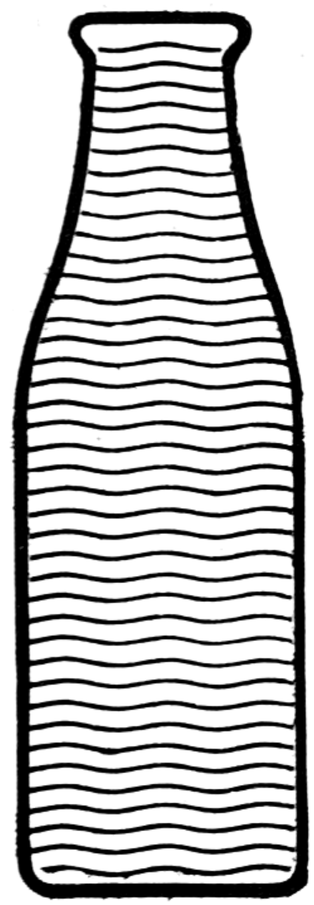


How do things float?

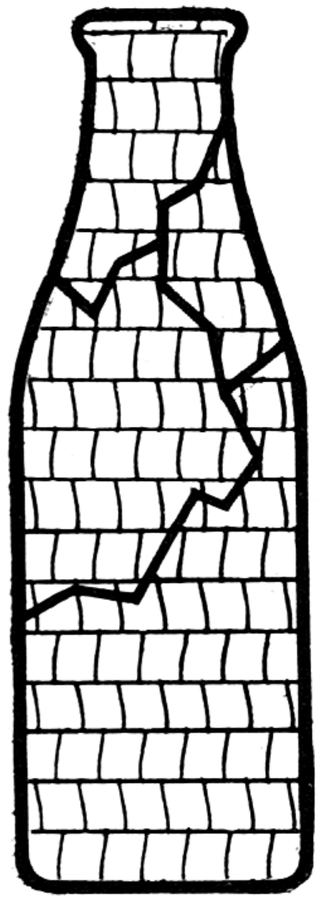
When water freezes, air gets in and it expands.

The same amount of water takes up more space when it is frozen.

That is why a bottle of water will crack if you leave it in the freezer: the ice can find extra space only by cracking the bottle.



Water



Ice