F2-31: BUOYANT BALLS IN BEANS

PURPOSE: To illustrate buoyancy in a surprising way.

DESCRIPTION: Begin with a heavy ball resting on dried beans in a bowl. Unbeknownst to the class, a ping pong ball has been placed under the surface of the beans. Shaking the bowl, the heavy ball sinks, while the ping pong ball rises to sit on the surface of the beans. Cover the bowl with a black cloth while shaking it, to make the whole thing more like a magic trick.

SUGGESTIONS:

REFERENCES: (PIRA 2C60.20) See Demonstration Reference File for arguments about this demonstration.

EQUIPMENT: Bowl of beans, heavy ball and ping pong ball, black cloth (not shown in pictures).

SETUP TIME: None.