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**ACTIVITY 24: DANCING GRAPES!**

**Goal:** To understand that air bubbles can make objects rise in a liquid

**Skills:** Observing, describing, inferring, predicting, explaining, sequencing, generalizing, and comparing

**Materials:** 2 liters of unopened club soda  
1 large bunch of seedless grapes  
7 transparent plastic tumblers

**Preparation:** 1. Divide the students into 6 groups.  
2. Distribute to each group:  
    1 plastic tumbler  
    2–3 grapes  
3. For best results, don't open the club soda until you're ready to use it—the fizz is very important!

**Preparation Time:** 5 minutes

**Lesson Time:** 10–15 minutes

**— Procedure and Questioning Strategy —**

Tell students to observe what you are doing. Hold up a bottle of club soda, tell the students what it is, open it, and pour some into a plastic tumbler. Hold the bottle and the tumbler of club soda so all students can see them.

1. What did you observe?

You poured club soda into the tumbler.

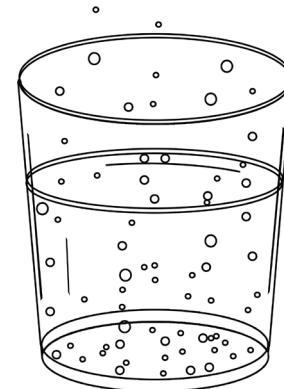
2. Describe the club soda.

It has bubbles in it. The bubbles are moving around in the club soda.

3. What do you think is in the bubbles?

Air.

Hold up a few grapes.



4. What do you think the grapes will do when we drop them into the club soda?

(Sink or float—predictions will vary.)

5. We're going to test our predictions in your groups. I will pour some club soda into your tumbler. As soon as I do, drop 2 or 3 grapes into the tumbler. Observe the grapes carefully for a few minutes, then discuss together what you have observed and why you think it happened. Try to talk quietly so other groups won't hear what your group says. Later we will share what we observed.

*Pour club soda for each group and allow time for observation and discussion. When the groups have completed their observations and discussions, continue with the lesson.*

6. What are the bubbles doing in your tumbler of soda water?

They are moving up to the top of the soda water.

7. Put your hand over the top of the tumbler. Can you feel the bubbles that have gone into the air?

Yes.

8. Why do you think they are doing that?

There is air in the bubbles.

9. What did the grapes do when you first dropped them into the club soda?

They sank to the bottom of the tumbler.



10. What happened after the grapes had been on the bottom for a little while?

There were bubbles on the grapes.

11. Describe what happened next.

The grapes moved up and down in the soda.

12. Why do you think the grapes moved up in the soda?

There were lots of bubbles on the grapes.

13. What is in the bubbles?

Air.

14. Do you think the air bubbles are lighter or heavier than the grapes?

Lighter.

15. So how do you think the bubbles made the grapes go up?

The bubbles pulled the grapes along with them as they floated up.

16. What happened when the grapes got to the surface (top) of the soda?

They went back down again.

17. Why do you think that happened?

The bubbles on top of the grapes burst when they hit the air above the soda.

18. How do you know?

We could feel the bubbles bursting on our hands. There were fewer bubbles on the grapes.