

Dancing Raisins Experiment

Materials:

- Two tall glasses
- A clear carbonated beverage (e.g, carbonated water or a clear-colored soda)
- Plain water (e.g, From the tap)
- A handful of raisins (we used 1/3 cup in each glass)

Directions:

- Fill one glass with water and the other with the carbonated beverage



- Pour 1/3 cup raisins into the water glass. Observe what happens.

- Pour 1/3 cup raisins into the carbonated beverage glass. Observe what happens.



How does it work?

Carbonated beverages are filled with a dissolved gas called carbon dioxide. Raisins are more dense than the liquid, and therefore sink to the bottom of the glass at first. However, the bubbles from the liquid form a "bubble jacket" on the raisins until the combined density of the raisins and gas is lower than the density of the liquid, causing the raisins to float to the top of the liquid. When the raisins reach the surface, the bubbles pop. Without their "bubble jackets," the raisins are more dense than the liquid, and thus sink back down again.