

Name _____ Date _____

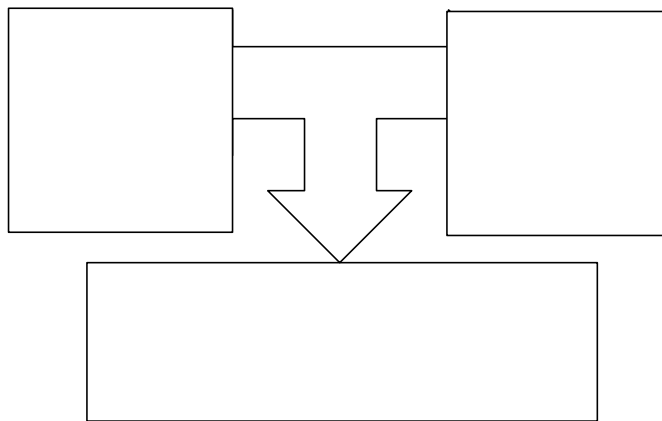
Mapping Relational Causality: Sinking or Floating

An object or a liquid can sink or float in another liquid, but neither liquid nor object alone is the "cause" of sinking and floating. It is the relationship between the two densities that "causes" sinking and floating. You can make comparisons about the relationship. For example, you can say that one is more dense and one is less dense, but it only makes sense in terms of the relationship in comparison to each another.

Let's map out how sinking or floating is an example of Relational Causality:

In Relational Causality...

1. **...a relationship between two things causes something to happen.** So it is more than just having two things, there needs to be a relationship between them.
 - a. In the top two boxes, write what the two things are.
 - b. In the middle of the arrow, tell what the relationship is.
 - c. In the bottom box, tell what the effect is.



2. **...comparisons or differences between the two things are responsible for something happening or being so.**

What comparison is responsible for the outcome in the role of density in sinking and floating?

Ask yourself these questions:

- Must the two things work in relationship to one another to make the effect happen?

- If one of the two things changes (so that the relationship changes), does the outcome change?
- Can a comparison be made between the amounts of the things?

It is NOT Relational Causality if:

- One cause can result in the effect without the other cause.
- You have two causes, but there is no comparison between them, (you just add them up or do one and then the other).