

Heavy, Heavy Hangs Over your Head

Taken from Fifer, F. & Ledbetter, C. (2000). *Penny Ante Science*®. Dallas: SCE Associates.

Use these **extensions** to inspire your own creativity to integrate these activities into your present curriculum.

Ecology: Organisms in the ocean occupy three distinct niches: the floaters (planktonic organisms), the swimmers (nektonic organisms), and the bottom dwellers (benthic organisms). How do these living beings control where they are in the water column? Would they be able to sustain their niches in fresh water?

Geology: Just as liquids have different densities, so do tectonic plates. One of the reasons plates dive under one another is that one is made of less dense materials than the other. What makes something dense? How can something as large as a tectonic plate float and on what does it float?

Humankind: Why do most of us sink in fresh water? Why do ice cubes float in our soft drinks? Densities of air make our environment more or less comfortable. The warmest portion of a room is usually near the ceiling, while the coolest air is near the floor. Understanding how densities impact our lives allows us to regulate our environment.

These detailed **correlations** indicate direct applicability to specific standards; others may be implied.

Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills (TEKS)*	K-2	3-6	6-8	IPC, Biology, Chemistry, Physics	Aquatics, Astronomy, Environmental, GMO
		4.1	8.1, 4, 9, 10	IPC.1, 2 Chemistry.1, 4, 15 Physics.1	Aquatics.1, 3, 4, 6, 9 GMO.1, 11

* Compiled from Ledbetter, C. (2000) *TEKSing through Penny Ante Science*®. Dallas: SCE Associates. Specific listing within any category pre-supposes applicability to the general process TEKS for each area.