Determining Liquid Density

Explore liquid density using salt water. Fill five jugs with one gallon of water each. In the first, add 1/2 cup pickling salt. Mix one cup of salt into the second, 1 1/2 cups into the third, and two cups into the fourth. Leave the last as plain water. Color each solution with a different shade of food coloring. Give students five test tubes containing each solution. Draw some of the first solution, using either a straw or an eye dropper, and add it to the test tube of the second. If the solution floats, it is less dense. If it mixes or sinks, it is less dense. Continue experimenting with each solution, and ask students to establish the order of density.