



Try this: Fill a sink or tub with a couple inches of water. Mold a piece of tinfoil into the shape of a boat and set it afloat on the water. Now add a penny. The air inside the boat offsets the density of the penny, so your boat is still seaworthy.

Now add another penny. Does your foil boat sit a little lower in the water? How many pennies can you add before your boat sinks? Can you change the shape of the bottom of the boat to displace even more water? Now how many pennies can you keep afloat?