

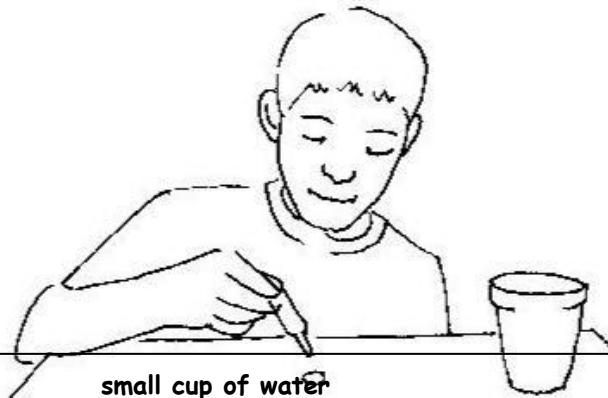
DROPS ON A PENNY (Surface Tension)

See how many drops of water the face of a penny can hold.

Because water molecules like to "stick" together, (**cohesion**), they create a high degree of **surface tension** on top of the water almost like a skin. Unless the surface film is broken, slightly heavier objects than water can float on the surface of the water. In this activity, notice how cohesion and **adhesion** work together to create surface tension holding the drop of water onto the penny.

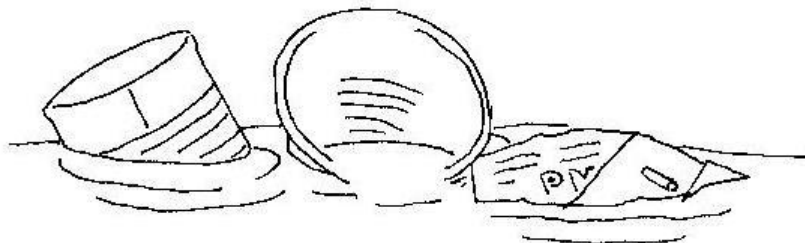
Predict:

How many drops of water you will be able
to put on a penny.



You Will Need: one penny eye dropper small cup of water

Instructions: Place the penny on a firm, flat table or desk, making sure that it is level and not tilting to one side.
Using the eye dropper, squeeze the bulb and draw up a full dropper of water from the cup.
Begin by slowly dropping one drop of water at a time onto the penny.
Continue dropping drops, as many as possible without spilling over the edge.
Count the drops as you go, keeping track of how many drops you've placed on the penny.
Continue dropping drops onto the penny until the water spills over or the water drop collapses.
Record your results on the Water Carnival Score Board.



This activity page was provided by special permission from The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. To learn more about the Watershed Harmony Environmental Puppet Theater or Study Guide, please visit www.bayoutown.com.