Surface Tension

Procedure

**Safety:** Do not eat or drink in a science laboratory.

1. **Collaborate** Work in small groups.

2. Fill a cup with water. Use the eyedropper to raise the level of the water to the rim.

3. How many paper clips do you think the cup can hold, with no water spilled over? Record your prediction.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Paper Clips</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Prediction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actual Results</td>
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4. **Record Data** Carefully add paper clips one at a time into the cup of water. Stop when the water overflows. Record the number of paper clips that the cup holds.

5. **Predict** What if you filled the cup with a different liquid, such as rubbing alcohol? Do you think the cup could hold the same number of paper clips? Record your prediction, then test it.
Conclusion

1. Analyze Data  How did your predictions compare with the results?

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2. Infer  How do you explain the difference between adding paper clips to water and to rubbing alcohol?

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3. Communicate  Write a report about this investigation. Describe the procedure, the results you observed, and your conclusions.

Experiment

How would temperature, dissolved salt or sugar, or other variables affect the number of paper clips that a cup of water could hold? Form a hypothesis, choose tools and materials, then write a procedure.

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Guided Inquiry