Whitney Water Center Learning from Home

Episode 15: Drops of Water on a Penny

Introduction

Drops of water on a penny is a classic classroom experiment, but do you know why the penny is able to hold so many drops of water? *Cohesion*, drops of water sticking to each other, and *surface tension*, water molecules pulled inward, work together to keep the water on the penny much longer than originally estimated. Take a close look at the water on the penny to see the bubble formed by cohesion and surface tension.

Experiment 1: How many drops of water will fit on the top of a penny?

Materials

- Water
- Penny
- Dropper
- Sponge or paper towel

Extension

Repeat the experiment with a nickel, dime, or quarter.

Link to video

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/scctrwa/videos/585896938970695/

YouTube: https://youtu.be/-edeuscsH_A