



Science Fair Projects

Pre-K to 2nd Grade

Water (surface tension)

Purpose

Is a full glass of water really full? Maybe you can add just a little bit more so this experiment makes cents!

Materials

Pennies, drinking glass, water and record page.

Experiment

On the record page guess how many pennies you think you can roll into a full glass of water before it overflows.

Fill a glass to the rim with water. Set a penny on the rim and let it roll into the water.

Keep rolling pennies into the glass until the water overflows. Record the actual results on the record page.

How many pennies can you roll into a full glass of water before it overflows?

What happened to the shape of the water at the top of the glass before it overflowed? _____.

My experiment showed that: _____.

Just for fun! Try your experiment again. Just before the glass overflows, put a drop of liquid soap in the water. What happened?

Results: As you put more and more pennies in the glass, the water began to heap up. Surface tension kept the water from overflowing. But then you added that one last penny and the surface tension was broken.

This project is from Daryl Vriesenga's book, *Science Fair Projects, Grades 1-3*, Michigan, Schaffer Publications, 1992. The Guide is available on line at: SchooDoodle.com