

Drops on a Penny (Surface Tension)

Instructions

Materials:

Water

Penny

Liquid soap

Pipet

Demo Procedure:

1. Fill a clean pipet with water. Count the number of drops of water that you can fit on a penny. After about 20-25 drops, the water forms a dome due to the surface tension of the water.
2. Continue to add drops of water until the water spills off the penny. This may take up to 40 drops depending on the size of the water drops.
3. Add liquid soap to the beaker of water and stir well. Fill the same pipet with the soapy water and count the number of drops of soapy water that can fit on a clean and dried penny.
4. The soap molecules disrupt the surface tension of the water molecules and the water does not form a dome and easily spills off the penny with less than 10 drops of soapy water.