

Drops on a Penny

Concepts

Explanation:

Water has a very high surface tension so it will form large drops or extend slightly over the edge of cups/pennys etc. With the addition of soap molecules to the solution the surface tension is greatly reduced. For that reason the number of drops that will sit on the penny is much less with the present of soap than you can do without the soap.

Sources:

If you have other explanations, concepts, or ideas for this demonstration please share them by contacting our Chem Demo team (bedell@nku.edu; sieveb1@nku.edu). We will pass them on to the community and credit you with the ideas.