



## Activity 3: Floating Paper Clips

Can a paper clip float on water?

### Resources

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|-------------|---------------|
| • cups      | • paper clips |
| • water     | • fork        |
| • toothpick | • liquid soap |

### Procedure

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1. Fill a cup with water. Be sure no soap residue is in the cup.
2. Notice what happens as you drop a paper clip very carefully on the water. Record your observations.
3. Carefully, place the paper clip on another bent paper clip or a fork and slowly submerge it in the water. The paper clip should remain suspended on the water. Record your observations.
4. Add a few more paper clips to the water using the same method. Record what you notice the paper clips doing.
5. Now, dip a toothpick into some dish soap and place the toothpick into the water near the paper clips. What happens? Record the results.

### Observations

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Complete the *Observations Table* on the next page.

Observations Table	Describe or draw what you observed:	Insert images here
Paper clip dropped into water		
Paper clip placed on water		
Many paper clips placed on water		
Toothpick with dish soap in water		

## Conclusions

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1. What property of water allows you to suspend a paper clip on its surface?

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2. What can be done to break the surface tension of water?

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Check your answers on pp. 60-61.