

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Penny Surface Tension Activity

Who can get the most drops!?!

Experiment #1

Purpose: How many drops of water can a penny hold? Which side of a penny can hold the most drops of water?

Predict how many drops of water a penny can hold: _____

Hypothesis: (If/then/because format)

Materials:

- 1 Penny
- 1 Plastic Pipette
- 4 pieces of paper towel
- 1 250 mL beaker
- 50 mL of room temperature water



Procedure:

1. Obtain 4 small pieces of paper towel, one penny, one pipette, and one beaker with 50 mL of water.
2. Wipe the penny clean with the paper towel and place the penny heads side up on one small piece of paper towel.
3. Pipette small drops of water on the penny, counting each drop.
4. Keep adding drops until the water bubble bursts and runs onto the paper towel.
5. Not counting the final drop that made it burst, record the number of drops that fit onto the heads side of the penny. Record the results in data table 1.
6. Repeat the same procedure (steps 2-5) for the heads side again.
7. Repeat the procedure two more times, but now use the tails side of the penny. Record those two trials.
8. Calculate the average number of drops for the heads side of the penny. Record the results in data table 1.
9. Calculate the average number of drops for the tails side of the penny. Record the results in data table 1.

Data Table 1: Number of drops of water that a penny can hold on the heads and tails side.

Side of Penny	Trial 1	Trial 2	Averages
Heads			
Tails			