

Experiment 2: Surface Tension!

Materials:

- Small dish
- Ground black pepper
- Toothpick
- Dish soap

Method:

1. Fill the dish with water and sprinkle with black pepper – think about why pepper is floating – it has to do with the surface tension of water. Water molecules are attracted to each other through hydrogen bonds, acting like a net on the surface of the water.
2. Dip the end of the toothpick in dish soap, then touch the surface of the water in the center of the dish. Watch what happens!
3. Think about why it happened. Soap is a surfactant, something that reduces surface tension. Think of it like this, when you put the soap on there, you broke the net!

