

## **Amazing Paperclips**

### **Materials Needed:**

paperclips  
a small cup filled with water  
tray or dish to put the cup in  
fork

**Hypothesis:** How many paperclips will fit in your cup of water? Make a prediction!

### **Procedure**

- 1-Make sure your cup of water is filled to the top.
- 2-Place the cup in the tray or dish in case any water spills.
- 3-With the fork, carefully put one paperclip in the cup of water at a time.
- 4-Keep track of how many paperclips you put in the cup.
- 5-Stop when the water overflows.

**Results:** How many paperclips fit in your cup of water?

### **Discussion:**

Why do you think so many paperclips fit in the cup of water?

### **Science behind this experiment:**

Drops of water stick to each other. That's why the surface of the water bulged and formed a dome when you added the paper clips, which kept the water from spilling out. This is called **surface tension**. Once too many paperclips were added to the cup, the surface tension was broken, allowing the water to spill over.

