

The Floating Paperclip

Make a paperclip float in water with this tricky but simple science experiment!

You will need:

- Paperclip
- Tissue paper
- Pencil
- A bowl of water

Instructions:

- Make sure the paperclip is clean and dry.
- Take a small piece of tissue paper and drop it gently onto the water surface.
- Gently place the paperclip onto the tissue paper, without touching either the water or the tissue.
- Carefully poke the tissue with the pencil (make sure you avoid touching the paperclip) until the tissue alone sinks.
- The paperclip should be floating on the surface of the water all by itself!

Why does it happen?

The paperclip floats due to the effects of surface tension. Under certain conditions, surface tension can bind the water molecules tightly together and this is what is supporting the paperclip. Many insects use surface tension to navigate water surfaces.

