Water Drops on a Penny

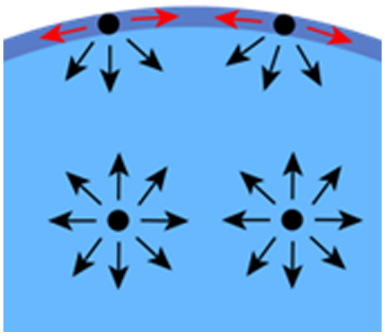
K-2 | 3-5 | 6-8

Materials:

- 1 Penny
- 1 Eye Dropper
- Containers of water for multiple kids to share

Instructions:

1. Give each student 1 penny and 1 eye dropper
2. Have them count to see how many drops of water they can balance on top of the penny before it spills over



Potential Variations:

- See who can fit the most drops on the penny. Which side can hold the most drops, heads or tails?

The Science:

Due to the cohesive forces, a molecule located away from the surface is pulled equally in every direction by neighboring liquid molecules, resulting in a net force of zero. The molecules at the surface do not have the same molecules on all sides of them and therefore are pulled inward. This creates some internal pressure and forces liquid surfaces to contract to the minimum area.