

Floating Paper Clip Science Experiment

Follow the directions to conduct the “Floating Paperclip” science experiment.

The Floating Paperclip Experiment

Will a paper clip float on water? Try this experiment and see what happens!

Materials and tools:

- clean dry paper clip
- tissue paper
- a bowl of water
- pencil with eraser

Procedure:

1. Fill a small bowl with water.
2. Cut a piece of facial tissue about two inches square.
3. GENTLY drop the tissue flat onto the surface of the water.
4. GENTLY place a dry paper clip flat onto the tissue (try not to touch the water or the tissue).
5. Use the eraser end of the pencil to carefully poke the tissue (not the paper clip) until the tissue sinks.

Suggestions:

1. Try the experiment numerous times to become confident in your technique.
 2. Experiment with different types of tissue paper. I had good success by placing the paper clip on a piece of paper towel and **carefully** placing the paper towel onto the water. The paper towel quickly sank (without tapping with the pencil eraser) leaving the paper clip floating on the water. I found this method was even successful with the jumbo-size paper clips.
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