NAMES: _____

DATE: _____

Floating Paper Clips

In this activity, you will find out if you can float metal on water.

Materials:

- Plastic cup
- Water
- Metal paper clips
- Dish soap

What to do:

1. Fill a plastic cup half full with water.
2. Place a paper clip delicately on the surface of the water near the middle of the cup. If the paper clip falls through the water, try again with another paper clip.
3. Place another paper clip on the water surface about 1 cm away from the first. Observe the behavior of the two paper clips.
   Record your observations:

   _____

   _____

   _____

4. Trying placing 2 more paperclips on the surface of the water.
5. Once you have successfully placed several paperclips on the surface of the water, very carefully place a drop of dish soap on the surface of the water. Observe what happens.
   Record your observations:

   _____

   _____

   _____

6. Try placing 1 more paper clip on the surface of the water.
   Record what happens:

   _____

   _____

Turn over…

What did you find out?

1. Metal paper clips have a density greater than water. How can they stay on the surface of the water?

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2. Based on your observations, what effect do you think dish soap has on the cohesive forces between water particles?

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