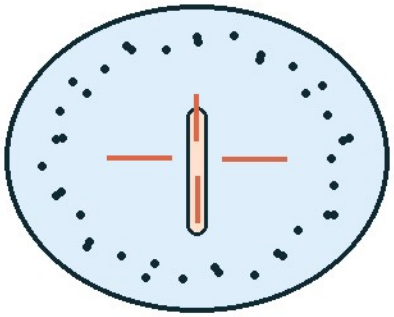
Pepper and Soap: Surface Tension

A drop of soap makes pepper run away



YOU NEED

- a shallow dish
- water
- ground black pepper
- dish soap
- a cotton swab

TRY IT

1. Fill the dish with water and sprinkle pepper over the top.
2. Touch a clean cotton swab to the middle. Very little happens.
3. Dip the swab in dish soap and touch the middle again.
4. Watch the pepper rush to the edges.

WHAT IS HAPPENING

Water molecules pull on each other and form a stretchy skin called surface tension. Soap weakens that pull where it touches, so the stronger pull from the rest of the surface drags the pepper outward.

SAFETY FIRST

Do not drink the water and keep your hands away from your eyes. Wash your hands afterward.

Never mix cleaning products, and never taste experiments.

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