WATER'S SKIN

1. Fill a glass to the brim with water.
2. Look very closely at the top of the water.
3. Slowly and gently add some drops of water, using an eye dropper.
4. Keep watching the top of the water.

OR

1. Using an eyedropper, see how many drops of water can fit on a coin.
2. What shape does the water make on top of the coin?
3. How many drops of water fit on the coin before the water spilled?

WHAT HAPPENED?

The top of the water seems to rise above the top of the glass. It bulges and forms a mound, but it doesn't spill. The same thing happens on the coin. The water bulges above the coin, but doesn't spill until

Water is made up of tiny particles called molecules. These molecules are attracted to each other. The ones below the surface are attracted equally in all directions. The molecules on the surface, however, are only attracted to the sides and down. This makes water act as if it had a "skin" on its surface. This effect is called surface tension.