Name _____ Date _____

Paper Clip Lab

Problem: How many paperclips will float in a cup at the same time?

Research: Write down everything you know about paperclips, water, density, and floating.

Materials:

Hypothesis: I predict that I will be able to get _____ paperclips to float on the water in my cup. I think this will happen because…

Procedure:

1. Get a small cup of plain tap water. Stick your finger into it and raise your finger and let it hang down toward the cup. Watch as the water clings to the end of your finger. Describe what the water drop looks like.

2. Get a second cup; pour the water from the full cup into the empty cup then pour it back again. This time put your pencil up against the lip of the full cup. Pour the water down the pencil. Where does the water flow?

3. Fill one of the cups with water so that surface of the water is approximately 1 cm below the top of the cup. Attempt to float a paperclip on the surface of the water. (Hint: place the paperclip on the prongs of the fork and gently lower it into the water). Continue floating as many paperclips as possible on the surface of the water. Describe the best method for floating paperclips.

Conclusions: I was able to float _____ paperclips on the surface of the water.

What is a property of water that you are able to conclude from this experiment?

What insects use this property of water to their advantage?