

Whitney Water Center Learning from Home

Episode 4: Cohesion vs. Adhesion

Introduction

Which force is stronger, cohesion or adhesion? Our two experiments will make it clear! *Cohesion* is when like molecules stick to each other. *Adhesion* is when different types of molecules stick to each other. In the case of our experiments, cohesion is water sticking to water and adhesion is water sticking to the yarn.

Both experiments can be done over a sink instead of a large plastic container.

Experiment 1: Adhesion – water sticking to a dry piece of yarn

Materials

- Cup of water
- Long, dry piece of yarn
- Large plastic container

Experiment 2: Cohesion – water sticking to a wet piece of yarn

Materials

- Cup of water
- Long, wet piece of yarn
- Large plastic container

Link to video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HnEDM3xux3k&t=2s>