

Alien Liquid (“Liquid X”) Lab

Station 1 – “The Penny Lab”

Water displays properties of **cohesiveness**, **adhesiveness**, and **surface tension**. Does Liquid X display these same properties?

1. Using a pipet, carefully place drops of each liquid onto a penny.
2. Count the number of drops you are able to “pile up” on top of the penny before the liquid spills.
3. Record your data and repeat each liquid 3 times. Find the average or mean of your results.
4. Clean up.

Data

Sample	Number of Drops Before Spilling			Mean
	Trial 1	Trial 2	Trial 3	
Water				
Liquid X				

- In this experiment, identify the:
 - Independent variable _____
 - Dependent variable _____
 - **Two** constants _____, _____

- Why was it important to complete multiple **trials** for each liquid? Justify your answer using your data above. _____

- How does “Liquid X” compare to water?
 - Justify your claim with evidence (data) and reasoning (an explanation).
 - Use the terms “**cohesive**,” “**adhesive**,” and “**surface tension**” appropriately in your reasoning.

Station 2 – Bubble and Fizz

Water is a **universal solvent** and makes chemical reactions easier as a result. Does Liquid X display this same property?

1. Pour one small scoop of sodium bicarbonate (baking soda) and one small scoop of citric acid into the same paper cup.

- Observe what happens and record your observations: _____

2. Pour a small amount of Liquid X into the paper cup.

- Observe what happens and record your observations: _____

- A **solvent** is a liquid that dissolves solids. The solid that is being dissolved is the **solute**. The combination of solvent and solute is called a **solution**. In this activity, identify the:

- Solvent _____ Solute(s) _____

- Considering what you just observed, does Liquid X help chemical reactions to occur quickly?

- Cells and living things require many chemical reactions to occur extremely quickly in order to survive. Explain how the “universal solvent” property might help cells and living things survive.

Station 3 – Frozen Density

The solid form of water (ice) is less dense than liquid, causing it to float (**buoyancy**) and protect aquatic life underwater. Does Liquid X display this same property?

1. Remove a solid block of Liquid X from the beaker using tongs.
2. Carefully drop the block into a beaker of fluid Liquid X. Observe how it behaves.
3. Leave the block in the fluid to melt.

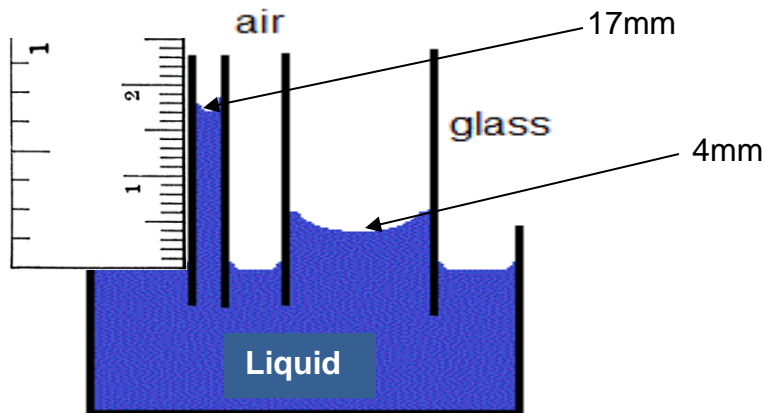
- Record your observations below. Did the solid “Liquid X” float like water, or sink like most other substances on earth? _____

- Explain how this property might help aquatic organisms living in a cold environment.

Station 4 –Capillary Action vs. Gravity

Water can literally “climb” up thin tubes due to its cohesive and adhesive properties. Does Liquid X display the same ability to defy gravity and perform **capillary action**?

- Use a ruler to measure how high Liquid X has climbed in each glass capillary tube.
 - Use the metric (centimeter) side. Measure each height in millimeters (mm). Count the smallest lines. Don't just read the number on the ruler!



Data

Tube Inner-Diameter	Height of water inside tube (above liquid in tray)
5.0 mm	
4.0 mm	
3.0 mm	
0.5 mm	

- Capillary action** is a product of two properties: **cohesion** and **adhesion**. Identify which property (cohesion or adhesion) is responsible for each action:
 - Liquid X can “stick” to surfaces such as glass and plastic. _____
 - Liquid X is attracted to itself and can even pull up on Liquid X molecules below it, against gravity. _____
- On Earth, plants (especially trees) rely on the capillary action of water to move up their stems, from the roots to the leaves. Could Liquid X perform a similar function? Justify your answer with data.

Station 5 – Hot Plate Race

Water has a **high heat capacity**, which means it doesn't change temperature as much as other substances. Does Liquid X also have this property?

1. Record the initial temperature of the sand (red) and Liquid X (blue).
2. Turn on each hot plate to a setting of "2" and press "play" in the lower left-hand corner of the LabQuest2 display.
3. Wait for the data to generate and record your data below.
4. Turn off the hot plates.
5. Discard the hot sand and hot Liquid X in the "waste" containers and set up the experiment for the next group:
 - 200 mL of "fresh" sand in one beaker and 200 mL of "fresh" Liquid X in the other.
 - Insert the red channel 1 probe in the sand and the blue channel 2 probe in the Liquid X.

Data

Sample	Temperature (°C)						
	Initial (0 min)	1 min	2 min	3 min	4 min	5 min	Range
Sand							
Liquid X							

- Identify the essential parts of this experiment:
 - Independent variable _____
 - Dependent variable _____
 - **Two** constants _____, _____
- Which substance changed temperature the most? Justify your claim with evidence.

- Which substance has a higher heat capacity? Justify your claim with evidence (data):

- Why might this property be important to organisms living in a pond on a sunny day?

Station 6 – pH Gizmo (See Attached Explore Sheet)

Station 7 – Acids and Bases

Water has a **neutral** pH of exactly 7. How does the pH of Liquid X compare to this and the pH measurements of other common chemicals?

1. Remove the pH probe from the white bottle. Rinse with water from the squeeze bottle while holding it over a waste container. Gently blot dry with paper towel.
2. Insert the probe into the first sample. Wait for the LabQuest2 to stabilize. Record the pH.
3. Remove the probe, rinse with water again, and blot dry again.
4. Repeat for each solution, rinsing and drying between each.
5. Rinse and dry one more time before replacing the probe in the white bottle.

Data

Sample	Liquid X	Water	Ammonia	Lemon	Vinegar	Bleach	Milk
pH Meter Measurement							

- Identify each pH measurement method as qualitative or quantitative:
 - pH Paper Strip: _____
 - Digital pH Meter: _____
- Based on what you know about the pH scale, what happens to the pH of liquid if you add:
 - base: Circle one: decreases; increases; stays the same
 - acid: Circle one: decreases; increases; stays the same
- Based on your data and the pH scale shown above, identify each of the following as usually acidic (A), basic (B), or neutral (N):
 - Cleaning products _____
 - Sour substances _____
 - Carbonated drinks _____
- Based on your observations from stations 5 and 6, are biological fluids such as blood and saliva more likely to be strongly acidic, neutral, or strongly basic. Explain your answer using observations and data from the lab.
