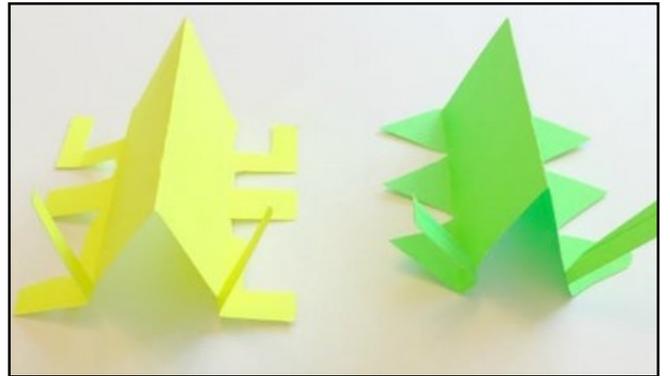


STEM Exploration

WATER STRIDERS



Explore the science of surface tension by making your own water strider!

Materials Provided:

Index Card

Materials Needed:

Crayons or Markers

Scissors

Instructions:



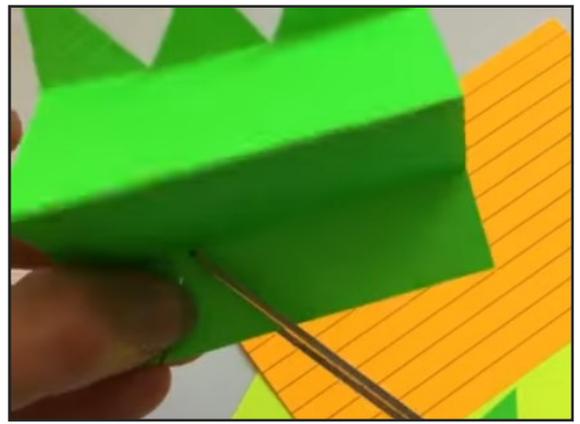
What is a water strider? Water striders are a special type of insect that have the ability to walk on water. How do they do this? Their specially designed legs allow them to repel water and attract air, to prevent their body from being weighed down. They also take advantage of something called **surface tension**.

Water molecules are attracted to each other. In fact, they are more attracted to each other than they are to the air above them. This attraction creates a thin membrane or barrier on the surface of the water, which water striders are able to float right on top of! With this project, you'll experiment with making your own water strider. Test it in water to see if it floats!

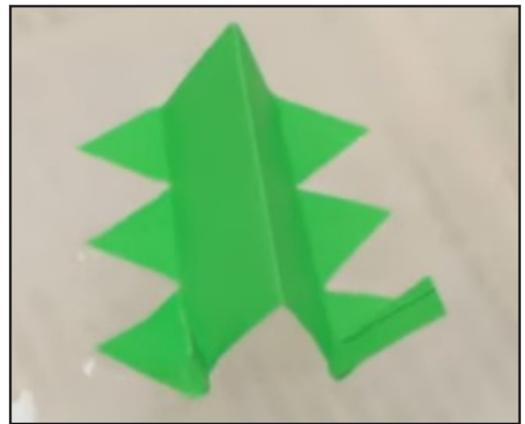
1. First, you'll need to fold your index card. Holding the card horizontally (long ways), fold the entire card in half. Then, tuck in a small section on each folded half, as show below.



2. From those folded ends on each side, use your scissors to cut 2-3 legs for your water strider. Triangular and angled legs tend to float better than square ones, but experiment with different shapes and ideas to see what works!



3. If you'd like, you can also cut antenna at the front of your water strider. Otherwise, you can color or decorate your insect now.



4. Test it out! Gently place your water strider into a bowl or tub containing a couple inches of water. Does it float on the surface, or start to sink? If you need a re-design to make it work, use another index card and try a different shape or design!

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This project was provided by **Teach Beside Me**.
Watch a video demonstration of this project here:
teachbesideme.com/water-striders-insect-science/