Name ________________________________

Water's Invisible Skin: Understanding Surface Tension

Short Answer Key

1. Surface tension is the force that acts on the surface of a liquid, tending to minimize the area of that surface.
2. Cohesive forces between water molecules, including hydrogen bonding, result in surface tension as they create an inward force at the liquid's surface.
3. (Possible answer) Surface tension influences the formation of soap bubbles, which can be entertaining and used for various purposes.
4. Surface tension enables capillary action in plants by allowing water to move up narrow tubes or channels in the plant's vascular system, aiding in water and nutrient transport.
5. Surface tension causes water droplets to form near-perfect spherical shapes because it minimizes the surface area while maintaining the cohesive forces between water molecules.