

Wondering about Water

from **Celebrating Chemistry**



What if water did not have all of its special properties? In what ways would the world be different? Think about how strange the world would be if water were different. Write a poem or a story about a world where water doesn't work like we expect.

Think about these things:

What if water adhered strongly to many substances?

How well would windshield wipers work?
How easily could you dry off after a swim?
What would happen when it rained?

What if water was not very cohesive, and did not stick to itself easily?

Could you pour a glass of water?
How big would puddles be?
Could plants survive?

What if water did not dissolve things?

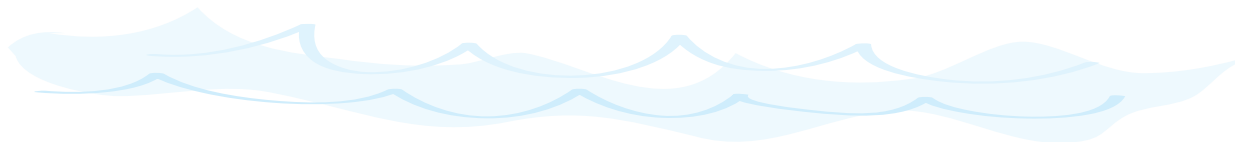
Could you make a glass of sweetened tea?
Could you wash with soap?
Would ocean water be salty?

What if ice sank in water?

Could aquatic plants and animals live through a cold winter?
How long would you have to wait to go ice-skating in the winter?
Would there be liquid water to drink in a cold winter?

What if water did not have cohesion and adhesion?

Would water bugs sink?
Could we drip drops from an eyedropper?
Would we need to use detergent to make bubbles in water?



American Chemical Society
Membership Division—Office of Community Activities
1155 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036
email kids@acs.org or call 800-227-5558, ext. 6187
chemistry.org/kids
Originally published October 2002.

© 2002