Racedrop Raceway!

Water sticks pretty well to itself but does not stick so well to other stuff. See this in action on your own Racedrop Raceway!

Materials:

- cardboard
- wax paper
- tape
- water
- Racedrop racetrack

Procedures:

1. Print out the Racedrop Raceway. Place the Raceway on a piece of cardboard and tape it down securely.

2. Tape a piece of wax paper over the raceway. You should be able to see the raceway clearly through the wax paper.
3. Place a couple of drops of water together to make one bigger drop in the starting area. This is your racedrop!
4. Tilt and move the board to make your racedrop go! Ask your adult partner to time you to see how fast you can get to the finish line.

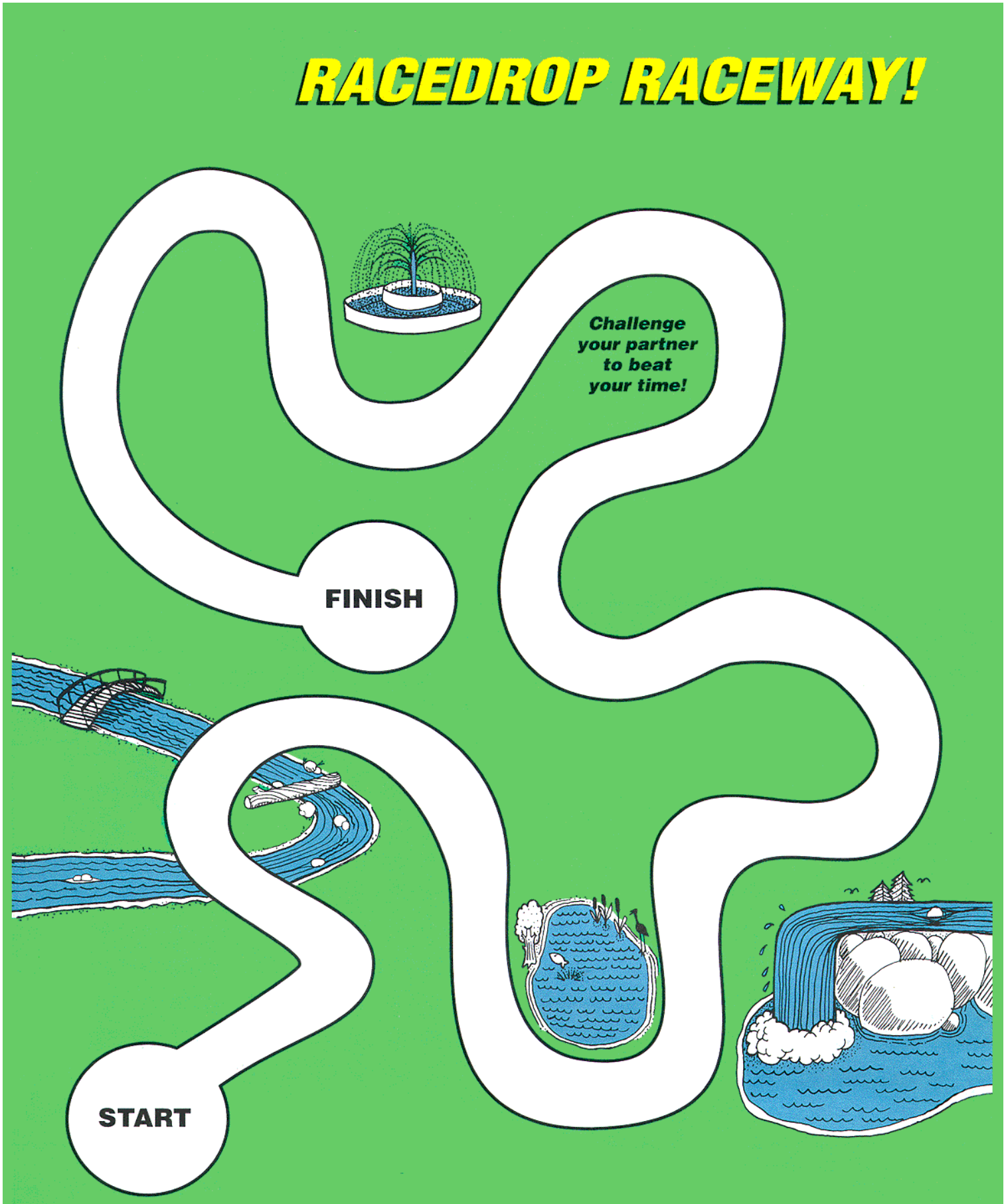
Think about this ...

Why did you use wax paper instead of just putting the drop directly on the racetrack? How do you think a drop of oil would work as a race drop on the race track? Give it a try. Can you think of any other place where water "beads up" like it does on wax paper?

Where's the Chemistry?

Something about water that you may have noticed is the way in which it sticks to itself. In fact, if you bring two drops of water close together, they will happily join each other to make one bigger drop. But there are some substances that water will not stick to, such as those made from oil or wax. This is why the water sticks to itself to make a race drop, but does not stick to the wax paper track.

RACEDROP RACEWAY!



The American Chemical Society develops materials for elementary school age children to spark their interest in science and teach developmentally appropriate chemistry concepts. The *Activities for Children* collection includes hands-on activities, articles, puzzles, and games on topics related to children's everyday experiences.

The collection can be used to supplement the science curriculum, celebrate National Chemistry Week, develop Chemists Celebrate Earth Day events, invite children to give science a try at a large event, or to explore just for fun at home.

Find more activities, articles, puzzles and games at www.acs.org/kids.

Safety Tips

This activity is intended for elementary school children under the direct supervision of an adult. The American Chemical Society cannot be responsible for any accidents or injuries that may result from conducting the activities without proper supervision, from not specifically following directions, or from ignoring the cautions contained in the text.

Always:

- Work with an adult.
- Read and follow all directions for the activity.
- Read all warning labels on all materials being used.
- Wear eye protection.
- Follow safety warnings or precautions, such as wearing gloves or tying back long hair.
- Use all materials carefully, following the directions given.
- Be sure to clean up and dispose of materials properly when you are finished with an activity.
- Wash your hands well after every activity.

Never eat or drink while conducting an experiment, and be careful to keep all of the materials used away from your mouth, nose, and eyes!

Never experiment on your own!

For more detailed information on safety go to www.acs.org/education and click on "Safety Guidelines".