Why Have a Wick?

10SCIE - Fire & Fuels

Finn LeSueur

2019

Learning Outcomes

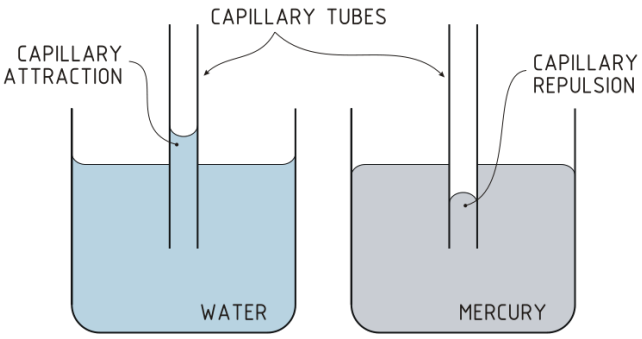
- To be able to explain the function of a wick

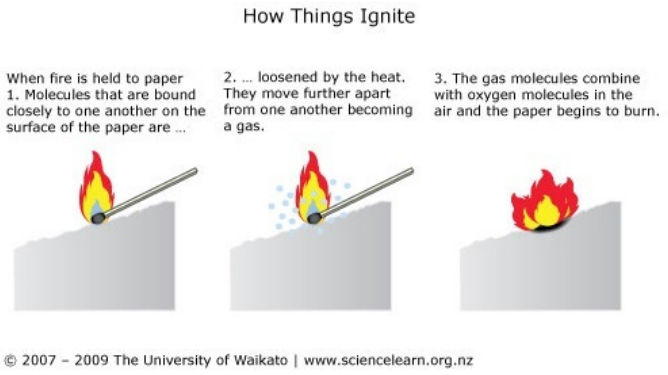
What do you think a wick is for?

Walking Water Demonstration

Capillary Action

- Liquids can flow into narrow spaces, even against the direction of gravity.
- E.g. paper in water, paint brushes sucking up water, a thin tube in water.
- The surface tension and adhesive forces between the liquid and container propel the water into the narrow space.





Wick Practical

1. Safety
2. Practical read through
3. Check understanding each step
4. Explain must do Qs 1,2,3 during practical
5. Timeframe (20mins)
6. Clean up check

Discussion Points

1. Why didn't the solid paraffin wax ignite?
2. Did the liquid wax ignite? Why/ why not?

3. How does the wick allow the wax to burn? (think about last lesson's practical)
4. Why doesn't the wick burn? (clue: evaporation and sweating)