A Water Droplet Magnifier

Yes, it's possible to make a tiny drop of water into a magnifier. You can't use it to read with, but it will magnify one letter at a time.

What to do: Straighten the paper clip and make a small loop, as round as possible, at one end. You'll need a pair of pliers to form the loop.

Paper clips are hard to bend when you work with just the end. The loop should be about 1/8 inch (3mm) across or just a tiny bit larger. Dip the loop into the glass of water. You'll see that a film of water fills the inside of the loop. Tap the wire against the side of the glass. This helps form the tiny lens of water.

Hold the loop above a letter on the newspaper page.

What happens: If all went well, the letter you're looking at will appear several times larger than it is. If the letter seems smaller than usual, the water formed the wrong kind of lens. Tap it against the side of the glass and look again.

If you lose the water inside the loop, just dip the wire again and collect a new water lens.

YOU NEED

• paperclip
• pliers
• glass of water
• page from newspaper
Water magnifier (Another Version)
One well known quality of water is that it makes things wet! But did you know that water also makes things look larger than they really are?

What You Will Need:
Piece of glass or plastic, newspaper, crayon, eyedropper, water

What You Do:
Get a small piece of clear glass or plastic. (A microscope slide is ideal.) Always be careful when handling glass. Put the slide on top of a piece of newspaper that has small print on it. Now use a crayon to draw a small circle on the slide. Look closely at the print that is within the circle.

With an eyedropper, carefully put a drop of water in the circle. Now look at the print again. Does it look larger? This is because the water drop bend rays of light, magnifying the image.