

Blooming water lily

You will need:

- Scissors
- Plate or bowl filled with water



What you do:

1. Cut out the two flower shapes.
2. Fold in the petals of the smaller flower and place it in the centre of the bigger one.
3. Fold in the petals of the larger flower.
4. Drop the flower onto the water and watch what happens.

You should find:

The petals open. Water travels up narrow gaps and tubes by itself. This is called capillary action. Plants use capillary action to draw water up through their stems. Paper is full of tiny gaps between its fibres. The water moves through these gaps by capillary action, making the paper swell. When the swelling reaches the folds in the paper, the petals open out.

Chromatography flowers

What you do:

1. Cut out several 12 cm paper towel circles.
2. Place a large coin at the centre of one of the circles and draw around it using a coloured felt-tip pen.
3. Repeat with the other circles using different coloured pens.
4. Fold one circle in half and curl it around to make a cone shape.
5. Place the tip of the cone into the glass of water, making sure that the ink doesn't touch the water.
6. Once the ink has spread to the outer edge of the circle of paper, remove it, open it up and leave it to dry.
7. Repeat steps 4-6 with the remaining circles.
8. Scrunch two dry circles together in the middle and twist a pipe cleaner around the back to make a chromatography flower!

You should find:

The ink dissolves in the water and spreads outwards. The water carries certain inks further than others, separating out the different colours.

You will need:

- White paper towels (kitchen roll)
- Water soluble felt-tip pens
- Pipe cleaners
- A glass containing 3 mm of water
- Scissors
- A large coin



