

Color Changing Capillary Action

Experiment Time: 20 min initially but can be left overnight for a more pronounced effect

Experiment Link:

<https://thestemlaboratory.com/walking-water-rainbow/>



Ingredients:

- 5 Clear Cups (can use more or less for basic demonstrations)
- Water
- Paper Towels
- Food Coloring

Directions:

- If you're recreating the rainbow, line up your cups and fill the 1st, 3rd, 5th with approx. $\frac{3}{4}$ water
- Use about 5 drops of red food coloring to the 1st cup
- Use about 5 drops of yellow food coloring to the 3rd cup
- Use about 5 drops of blue food coloring to the 5th cup
- Take paper towel sheets and fold it in half lengthwise and repeat, then place each of them in two cups 'connecting' them (5 cups should use 4 paper towel sheets)
- Watch as the colored water starts to be absorbed and displaced

Notes:

- Try using different colors and combinations
- If you have more than 7 cups, try making a larger chain or even a ring
- To further demonstrate capillary action try placing celery or flowers in the colored water