

# WALKING WATER EXPERIMENT

Total Time: 2 hours

## Supplies Needed:

- Recording Sheet, provided below.
- 5 small glass (or see-through) cups
- Paper Towels
- Food Coloring (red, blue, yellow)
- Water
- Timer (optional)

## Directions:

1. Print the recording sheet or have it available to write down answers on a separate sheet of paper.
2. Place the five cups in a straight line, right next to each other.
3. Fill up the 1st, 3rd and 5th cup with the same amount of water. About 3/4 full.
4. In the 1st cup, put 5 drops of red food coloring.
5. In the 3rd cup, put 5 drops of yellow food coloring.
6. In the 5th cup, put 5 drops of blue food coloring.
7. Tear off 4 sheets of paper towels and fold each in half lengthwise, then fold in half lengthwise again and then fold in half. You should have 4 skinny "tent" like sheets of paper towels.
8. Before you move on, fill out the 1st part of the recording sheet. What is your hypothesis?
9. Now place one paper towel strip so it is immersed in the 1st cup of water and overlaps into the empty 2nd cup. Then place another strip in the 2nd cup, overlapping into the 3rd cup - and so on.

## START THE TIMER.

10. Now observe. What do you see happening? Is it what you expected?
11. The next part will take a little longer. So check back every 15 to 30 minutes to observe the progress.
12. Stop the timer when you see color or water moving into the empty cups.
13. After 2-3 hours, you should see the final results. Fill out the 2nd part of the recording sheet. What happened to the empty cups?

Recording Sheet for the  
**WALKING WATER EXPERIMENT**

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*Hypothesis - This is what I think will happen:*

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Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_

End Time: \_\_\_\_\_

How many minutes did it take? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Vocabulary:**

*While you're waiting, look up the term and circle the correct words in the definition.*

**Capillary Action** - The movement of water/air through open/dark spaces. This is important because water/air needs to move through natural materials, like plants, to help them dance/grow.

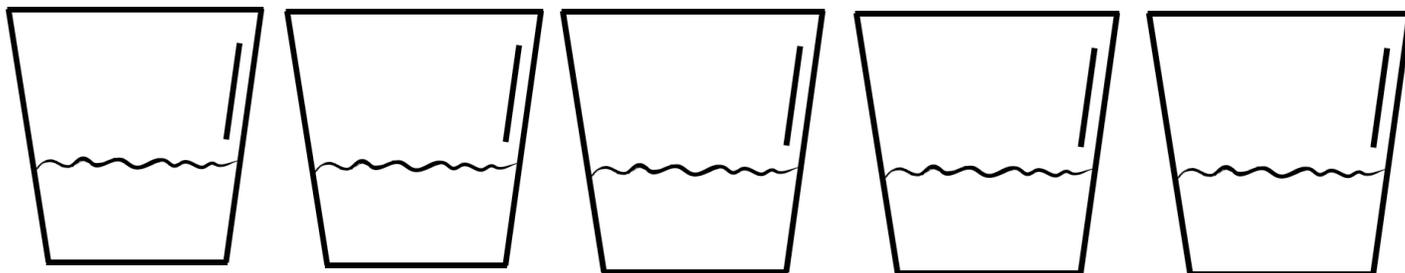
When you water soil, how does it get to the plants?



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## Observation:

After 30 minutes, observe what colors appear in each glass.  
Draw each color on the glasses below.



## Application:

Plants, just like humans need water to survive. When water enters the soil, how does it get to the plant?

Through **Capillary Action!** Water is absorbed through the soil and climbs up the plant's root systems just like it did with the paper towels. The water travels through capillary action from the roots to the rest of the plant.

