SCIENCE at home

Walking Water

SUPPLIES:

Water
Test Tubes
(clear plastic cups or mason jars work well too!)
Food Coloring
Paper Towels
Stirrer
Scissors
Timer

Simple science starts here! A Walking water science experiment is incredibly easy and fun to set up with the kids! How can you make science really fun and doable for your kids? Try simple science at home using what you already have! Kids as young as preschool up through early elementary school age will love this easy rainbow science too!

STEP 1: First add red, yellow, and blue food coloring (one color per test tube) in a pattern. Give each test tube (or (glass) a little stir to evenly distribute the color.

STEP: 2 Cut thin strips of paper towel to fit in the test tubes. If you are using glasses or cups, you can judge the best size strip to fit what you are using.

STEP 3: Place the paper towel strips into the test tubes. There will be two ends in each tube.

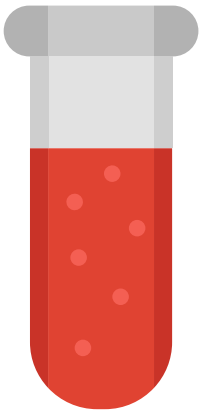
STEP 4: Wait and watch what happens. At this point, you can set up a stopwatch to make note of how long it takes for the colors to meet and mix. Make sure to check on your walking water science experiment every once in a while to see the changes that are constantly taking place. The kids will be amazed at how the water seems to defy gravity!

THE SCIENCE

Walking water science is all about capillary action which also can be seen in plants. You can even check out our celery osmosis experiment to see this! The colored water travels up the fibers of the paper towel. These gaps are similar to the capillary tubes of a plant that pull the water up through the stems. The fibers of the paper towel help the water move upward which is my this walking water science experiment looks like it is defying gravity. How else does water move up the tree?

Walking Water Observations

Use this worksheet to process and evaluate your work.



What do you think will happen when we put the towels into the water?

What do you notice happens to the water?

Did the water behave the way you thought it would?

How long did it take for the water to travel?

What did you learn?