

Walking Water Science Experiment



You only need a few simple supplies that you probably already have around the house.

Setting Up the Rainbow Science Experiment

Supplies Needed:

- 7 Small plastic cups or glasses
- Paper towels
- Food colouring in primary colours (red, yellow and blue)
- Water

* If you are using larger paper towels, then cut them in half. More absorbent paper towels work better too.

1. Place 7 cups in a row and pour water in the 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th cup, until 3/4 full.

2. Add 5 drops of red food colouring to the 1st cup and the 7th cup.

3 Add 5 drops of yellow food colouring to the 3rd cup.

4. Add 5 drops of blue food colouring to the 5th cup.

You want to try to use the same amount of food colouring in each cup.



Doing the Walking Water Experiment

1. Take a half sheet of paper towel and fold it in half lengthwise and in half again lengthwise.
2. Trim off some of the length so that there isn't too much excess paper towel that will stick up in the air between each cup. This will make the water walk more quickly.
3. Place one half of a rolled paper towel in the 1st cup and place the other half in the cup next to it. Then another paper towel from 2nd cup and into the 3rd cup. This continues until you have placed the last paper towel that drapes over from the 6th cup to the 7th cup.
4. Stare at the cups and watch what starts happening. You should quickly be able to see the coloured water begin to crawl up the paper towel.



This walking water experiment is AWESOME!

Keep checking back every couple of minutes. Soon you will be able to see that the water has crawled all the way up the paper towel and is beginning to walk back down into the empty cup next to it.

Since the cup on either side of an empty cup has coloured water in it, the two colours begin to mix in the empty cup. So cool!

Keep coming back throughout the two hours or sooner and observe what is happening.

Question to Ask

What do you think will happen to the water?

What is happening now?

Why do you think the colours are changing?

Why might the water be able to move up against gravity like that?