



## Science Activity 51: Walking Water



# WALKING WATER

## Resources required:

7 transparent cups, kitchen paper towels, water, food colouring (red, blue and yellow).

## Description of Investigation:

1. Place the 7 cups side by side.
2. Pour water into the first cup (about half full). Add a few drops of red food colouring into the water. Leave the next cup empty.
3. Repeat the same procedure by filling the third cup with yellow coloured water and leaving the fourth cup empty.
4. Fill the fifth cup with blue coloured water, leave the sixth cup empty and fill the seventh with red coloured water again.
5. Fold a paper towel in half lengthways and again so that it will fit into the first cup easily. Then, place one end of the paper towel into the blue water (first cup) and bend the paper towel over the edge of the cup so that the other end sits in the empty cup next to it.
6. Do the same with the other cups. You should have 6 paper towels in all, linking the cups together.
7. Watch and wait what is happening.

## Investigation Questions:

- What can you observe?
- Why is this happening?
- What happens when the colours are mixed together?
- Explore use of other materials other than kitchen paper towels.



## More info:

This experiment is a great example of **capillary action**. The paper towels are made of fibres. The water is able to travel through the gaps in these fibres and is pulled upwards. This is what helps water climb from a plant's roots to the leaves at the top of the plant or tree.

<https://funlearningforkids.com/rainbow-walking-water-science-experiment-kids/>

## Skills acquired :

- ✓ **Think Critically** - ask questions, observe, record observations and find out answers.
- ✓ **Collaborate** with family members.
- ✓ Get **Creative!** Arrange the cups in a different way to mix different colours!
- ✓ **Communicate** your findings with others.

 You are invited to share photos or videos of your Science activity results on our social media platform - [Primary Science Malta](#).

## Suggested links to other subject areas

### Creative Arts:

- Learning about primary and secondary colours.

### Language:

- Understanding and following instructions.
- Describing the results obtained and the procedure.

### Mathematics:

- Measuring the amount of water poured in each cup and how much water has 'travelled' into the empty cups.
- Time taken for water to travel up the paper towel and mix the colours.

