

Experiment 2: To show how plants take up water from the soil

Materials:

- Different coloured food colouring
- 2 Plastic Bottles
- Jug of Water
- Scissors
- White carnations or celery sticks with leaves attached.

Instructions

An adult should help to make the plastic jar, as this could be dangerous.

Step 1

Cut off the top of the plastic bottle to make a plastic bottle jar.

Step 2

Fill the jar $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ with water. Pour food colouring and water into the each plastic jar.

Step 3

Add the food colourings to the water making the colour as strong as possible – the stronger the colour the better the result!

Step 4

Place the carnations into the jars.

Step 5

Leave to stand a few hours or overnight. What do you observe in the petals

Step 6

Observe what happens!

Do the petals change colour?

Optional step – An adult can carefully cut some of the stem in half and place one half in each coloured water.

Explanation: Water travels up from the root to the stem and leaves of a plant by a process called capillary action.

For a St. Patrick's day activity, use a white carnation with green and orange food colouring to make a green, white and orange flower. Split the stem, so that you have two legs, put one leg in the green dyed water, and the other in the orange dyed water.

Watch for your St Patricks day carnation to form!

