

Spring Science Activity - Flower Power!

Materials:

- White coffee filters (basket style, not cone)
- Washable markers (bright colors)
- Clear plastic cups/jars
- Water (small amount in each cup)
- Binder clips or clothespins
- Colored pipe cleaners (flower stems)
- (Optional) Scissors

Directions:

1. Prep the filters. Flatten your coffee filters and use washable markers to color designs on top. Unleash your creativity and decorate with your heart!
2. Fold the filter in half four times so they are cone shaped.
Hypothesize. Write down what you think will happen when we dip the filters into water!
3. Dip and watch. Pour half an inch of water into a clear cup, then place the pointed tip of the coffee filter into the water. Use a binder clip to balance the filter on the cup so it doesn't fall in. Watch as the water begins to climb the paper fibers and carry the marker ink upward.
4. Take filters out of the water and lay them out to dry. Once the filters are completely dry, fold and scrunch them in the center (you could also cut a rounded top or add ruffles to look more like petals). Twist a colored pipe cleaner around the middle to make a stem.
5. Have fun! Fluff the edges to make petals, and repeat this process to create a bouquet, the perfect spring gift.

What are we learning?

We are learning about capillary action, something that happens inside plants. Our coffee filters are made of cellulose fibers, which are small, straw-like tubes that water can travel through. Water molecules are sticky, meaning they cling to each other and to the fibers in the filter. Together, these forces pull water upward against gravity. The same process happens inside plants. Xylem tubes in stems and leaves carry water from the roots to the rest of the plant.



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Observation Sheet

Experiment with different colors of coffee filters. Try one or try them all!

Use this sheet to write down your observations. Use the blank rows to try your own combinations and see what happens!

Materials	Hypothesize! What do you think will happen?	Observe! What happened? What did it look like?
Coffee filter + _____ colors?		
Coffee filter + _____ colors?		
Coffee filter + _____ colors?		
Coffee filter + _____ colors?		

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