

WALKING WATER

MATERIALS

- SIX CLEAR CUPS
- FOOD COLORING (RED, BLUE, AND YELLOW)
- 3 SPOONS
- PAPER TOWELS (LESS ABSORBANT WORKS BEST)



INSTRUCTIONS

1. FILL 3 CUPS WITH WATER ABOUT HALF FULL. LEAVE 3 CUPS EMPTY.
2. ADD A FEW DROPS OF RED FOOD COLORING TO ONE OF THE CUPS OF WATER AND STIR WITH A SPOON.
3. REPEAT WITH THE BLUE AND YELLOW FOOD COLORING AND THE TWO OTHER CUPS OF WATER.
4. SET UP THE CUPS AS SHOWN IN THE IMAGE ABOVE.
5. PREPARE 6 LONG STRIPS OF PAPER TOWEL ABOUT 1-2 INCHES WIDE. FOLD THE PAPER TOWEL STRIPS SO THAT THEY FORM A BRIDGE BETWEEN ONE OF THE CUPS OF COLORED WATER AND ONE EMPTY CUP. MAKE SURE THAT THE PAPER TOWEL STRIPS ARE LONG ENOUGH TO TOUCH THE BOTTOM OF THE CUPS. REPEAT WITH THE 5 OTHER STRIPS.
6. OVER TIME, YOU'LL SEE THE COLORED WATER START TO TRAVEL UP THE PAPER TOWEL STRIPS AND MIX IN THE EMPTY CUPS, CREATING NEW COLORS WHERE THEY MEET. THIS WILL LIKELY TAKE A FEW HOURS.

EXPLANATION

AS THE WATER MOLECULES MOVE UP THE PAPER TOWEL, THEY PULL OTHER WATER MOLECULES ALONG WITH THEM. THIS CREATES A CHAIN REACTION WHERE WATER MOLECULES IN THE PAPER TOWEL PULL MORE WATER MOLECULES FROM THE GLASS, CAUSING THE WATER TO "WALK" UP THE PAPER TOWEL STRIP AND DOWN THE OTHER SIDE INTO THE EMPTY CUP. SINCE THE COLOR IS MIXED WITH THE WATER, IT TRAVELS WITH THE WATER.