



DYEING FLOWERS USING FOOD COLOURING

Materials:

- 3 white flowers
- 3 bottles of food colouring (red, yellow, and blue)
- 3 glasses or jars around the same size
- Water
- Scissors

Instructions:

1. Fill each jar with water half way.
2. Add 3 drops of food colouring into each jar. Each jar should be a different colour.
3. Carefully cut the end of each of the flower's stem.
4. Place each stem in a different coloured water jar. Check that the jar is stable once the flower is in it.
5. Wait one hour and observe your flowers' petals.
6. Wait one day and observe your flowers' petals.

How it works:

The xylem of the flower works like an elevator and brings the water from the cup all the way up the plant's stem and into the plant's petals. When the dyed water is brought up, it dyes the plant's petals. The xylem allows the plant to get water from the roots all the way to the petals.

Extra Experiments:

What happens if you try using 5 drops of food colouring instead of 3 drops?

Keep a picture log of your flowers. Take a picture each day and see how many days it takes for your flower's petals to become the most vivid colour.

Try using different type and colours of flowers. Which flowers work the best? Why do you think we suggested using white flowers?

What happens to the flower and the water if you take your flower out of the dyed water then put it in clear water?

Try creating a rainbow of flowers! Make purple water, green water, orange water, etc., and dye one flower each colour.

Source: <http://www.sciencefun.org/kidszone/experiments/dyed-flowers/>

