

Grow your own rainbow

**Want to grow your own rainbow?
Try this simple science experiment.
It's so much fun, and super easy to do!**

The science bit

How can a rainbow grow with just paper and water? It's all about the Capillary action. Capillary action is the movement of a liquid through or along another material against an opposing force, such as gravity. Examples of capillary action in water include water moving up a straw and tears moving through tear ducts.

This experiment

For this experiment, you will be using kitchen roll as it is made up of fibres that have lots of tiny holes. This allows water molecules to cling to the kitchen roll and pull each other up like a chain through the paper. When colours are added and the kitchen roll is dipped in water, capillary action pulls the water and colours upwards to create a rainbow. Clever!

You will need:

a sheet of kitchen roll, 2 small bowls or containers for water, scissors and felt tip pens.

Instructions

1. Draw and cut out a rainbow shape on your kitchen roll.
2. Using felt tip pens, colour the two bottom edges of your rainbow with bright colours up to 5 cm's high.

Tip: Make sure you colour on both sides of the kitchen roll.

3. Fill each bowl with water. Dip the coloured ends of your rainbow in the bowls of water and wait...

4. Watch your rainbow grow!

