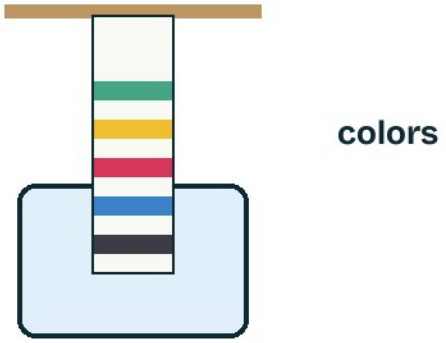
Hidden Colors in Black Ink

Water pulls color apart



YOU NEED

- a washable black marker
- a coffee filter or paper towel
- a cup
- water
- a pencil and tape

TRY IT

1. Cut a strip of filter paper and draw a dot of marker near one end.
2. Tape the strip to the pencil so the end just touches the water, with the dot above the water.
3. Wait while the water climbs up the paper.
4. Watch the ink split into bands of different colors.

WHAT IS HAPPENING

The water carries the ink up the paper. Different dyes in the ink move at different speeds, so they separate into bands. This is called chromatography, and chemists use it to separate mixtures.

SAFETY FIRST

Use washable markers only and keep them away from your mouth. Do not drink the water.

Never mix cleaning products, and never taste experiments.

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