

Traveling Water Experiment

by Carolyn Wilhelm, February, 2015

This traveling water experiment is easy to set up. Which way will the water travel, through the hose or the paper towel? In 24 to 48 hours the answer is revealed.



Supplies required include:

- 4 jars
- 2 paper towels not separated
- 1 piece of airline/plastic hose about 12 inches long
- 2 colors of food coloring

What to do:

Fill two jars each two thirds full of water.

Leave two jars empty.

Put two different colors of food coloring in the jars with water.

Place the plastic tube and the paper towels so they touch the bottom of each jar (jar with water to dry jar in each case).

Have the children predict. Which way or ways do they think the water will travel?

Leave the jars undisturbed as in on the top of a shelf for two days.

Show the children the finished experiment and let them make observations.

When they are ready, ask the children why water could travel one way and not the other?



Spoiler: The water will travel over the paper towel with "capillary action" and not through the hose.

Also, all of the water will not travel to the other jar, only some of it.

Further experiment: Try yarn, string, cloth, and different materials. Which work the best?