

Climbing Rainbow

Science Experiment

If you have children in your home, then you've likely got everything you need to create your own climbing rainbow.

Supplies:

- Sandwich sized plastic food container
- Markers
- A small wooden dowel or pencil
- Paper towels
- Scissors
- Tape
- Water

How To Create Your Own Climbing Rainbow



Cut a strip of paper towel approximately 2×5 inches in size. On a short edge, use markers to make a strip of blocks in the colors of the rainbow. (We used this opportunity to talk about ROYGBIV.) Let the marker dry. (We found that if the paper towel is still wet with the ink the experiment does not work as well!)

The next step can be done two different ways. You can tape the top of the paper towel to a vertical surface and put only one end in the dish





Or you may opt to create an arch using a small wooden dowel or pencil. Rest it lengthwise across an empty sandwich sized plastic container. Drape the paper towel strip across the dowel with the colored edges just touching the bottom of the container. (This way requires both short ends to have colored edges.)

Gently pour water into the bottom of the container and watch what happens!

As the paper towel absorbs the water, the capillary action will carry the water along with the marker ink up the paper towel. After the colors climb up or meet in the middle, you have your very own rainbow!



Variations

- Don't want a rainbow? Use just two or three colors and watch how they mix.
- Experiment to see which brand of paper towel lets the water travel the fastest or slowest.
- After the experiment, let your paper towel dry out. Laminate it to make a cool bookmark or Suncatcher.

Project provided by: Coffee Cups and Crayons