

Grade 2 Week 12

SURPRISING BLACK INK!

Black ink is made from lots of different chemicals. These vary with different makes of markers. Try doing some chromatography tests with two or three different black markers. Crayola Classic Markers or any water soluble marker or pen should work. (Note: Some of the markers labeled washable on the box like the Crayola washable markers do not work well.)

MATERIALS:

thick paper towels (or a coffee filter)
clear glass or cup
water
different black markers

PROCEDURE:

1. Cut paper towel (or coffee filter) into 1" strips.
2. Mark each test strip with a black line 1" from the bottom. (Label each strip with pencil so you know which pen makes which black line).
3. Put the strips into the glass (or cup) filled with about 1/2" of water. Make sure the black line doesn't actually touch the water.
4. Record your observation.

HOW IT WORKS:

The inks in your markers are made from a mixture of different colored chemicals. The water rises up the paper towel (or coffee filter) strips taking these chemicals with it. The different chemicals travel up the paper at different speeds and so the colors separate, making patterns.