



DINO'S DYNAMOS Experiment

Capillary Carnations

What you need:

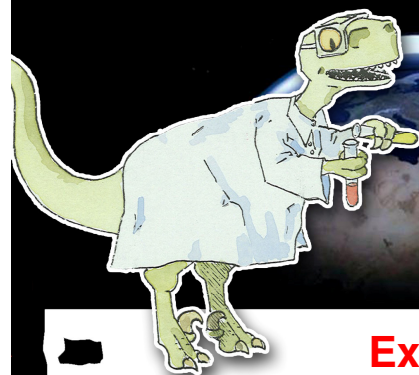
- 2 x white carnation flowers
- Red food colouring
- Blue food colouring
- 2 glass jars e.g. clean jam jars
- Tap water



Step 1 Fill both jars half way with water. Add 10 drops of red food colouring to one and blue food colouring to the other.

Step 2 Place one flower stem in the jar with the red colouring and the other stem in the jar with the blue colouring.

Step 3 Wait a day or so and see what happens!



DINO'S DYNAMOS Experiment

Explain the Experiment



Your flowers will have turned blue and pink. This is because the coloured water has moved up through the stems of the carnations and into the petals. The upward movement of the water is called capillary action. It works in the same way as a sponge soaks up water. If you leave your flowers for longer they will become brighter in colour as more of the coloured water replaces the uncoloured water originally in the petals.

Many flowers get most of their water through their roots, not directly from rain falling on them. Capillary action allows water in the soil to be transported up through the whole plant from the roots to the shoots and into the leaves and petals.

