

Activity 3 Separating inks

What do I need?

- (1) Some Kitchen paper cut into strips.
- (2) Pens of the same and different colours. You need to use pens that have water soluble inks (fountain pens, some gel pens, fibre tip pens).
- (3) A small glass or an empty glass jar
- (4) Tap water

What do I do?



Step 1 – Make a spot of ink on a strip of the kitchen paper with the pen. Use different strips of paper for different pens. The spot of ink should be about 1.5 cm from the bottom of the strip of paper.

Step 2 – Put some tap water into the bottom of the glass so that there is about 1cm of water in the glass.

Step 3 – Carefully place the strip of kitchen paper into the glass so that the end with the ink spot just dips into the water. Make sure that the water doesn't cover the ink spot. The water should slowly move up the kitchen paper and the ink should move up the paper as well.

Step 4 – Once the water has moved up almost to the top of the strip of paper take the paper out and allow it to dry.

