

Learning Target: I can explain how capillary action occurs.
 Learning Target: I can explain why capillary action is vital for all life on earth.

Capillary Action Lab



Claim: I can make water run uphill against gravity.

1. What is capillary action?
2. What three properties of water is capillary action caused by?

Materials required:

- Bowl of water
- Food coloring
- Two types of paper towel (paper towels with a different thickness)
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Timer/video recorder (cell phone)

Experiment Steps

1. Pour water into bowl of water until half full.
2. Add 3 to 4 drops of food coloring to bowl of water.
3. Use your ruler to cut paper towels into 2-inch wide strips.
4. Place a mark on each type of paper towel 1-inch from the edge.
5. Carefully dip one of the paper towels straight down into the bowl of water just to the 1-inch mark.
6. Immediately after lifting the paper towel out of the water begin recording how far the water rises after 30 seconds. Record your results below.
7. Repeat the same steps for the second paper towel. Record your results below.

Evidence: Results of Lab Experiment.

How far did water rise after 30 s for paper towel 1?	How far did water rise after 30 s for paper towel 2?

Lab Questions:

1. Which type of paper towel did the water rise higher on? _____ Why? _____
2. What would happen if you put the paper towel into the water up to 2-inches? What it rise more, less, or the same amount? _____
3. Do you think the same thing would happen with another liquid? ____ Soda? ____ Milk? ____
4. Why is capillary action important for plants and trees? _____
5. What would happen if capillary action was not occurring in plants and trees? _____

Reasoning: How does your evidence support your claim? _____

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