

Smarties Chromatography

What you need

Filter paper or blotting paper
Water
Dropper or straw
Felt pens
Smarties



Method

1. Take your piece of paper and colour in some dots with your felt pen
2. Put your smarties **underneath** a blank part of your paper
3. With your dropper, gently drop a few drops of water over your paper – above the smartie and also over your other felt pen dots
4. Wait for the water to travel across your paper pulling the colour dyes along with it

What is going on?

The colour in the sugar coating of the smartie shell dissolves in the water. The water is drawn out through the paper by capillary action and moves in a growing circle.

The different inks which make up the smartie colour or the felt pen move at different speeds and so they are separated.

And finally:

Now you can eat your soggy smartie!