

Colorful Chromatography

Let's Experiment! How many colors can be separated from a black marker? Using a washable black marker and a little bit of water, you can find out for yourself! What cool designs and patterns can you create with chromatography?



Materials:

- Washable black marker (and other colors you want to experiment with)
- Coffee filter
- Water
- Eye dropper/ pipette (or any way to get a few drops of water)
- Jar lid/ cup (or anything you can put your coffee filter on top of to catch marker-dyed water)

Steps:

1. Use your black washable marker to draw a dime-sized dot in the center of your coffee filter
2. Use your pipette to drip water onto the marker dot
3. Observe what happens to your marker dot's color
4. Try again with different color markers and a different simple pattern in the middle if your coffee filter

Caregiver Tip:

Try using non-washable markers in addition to washable markers. What differences do you notice?

Credit:

The Colorful Chromatography activity was inspired by the "Chemistry is Colorful" activity created by the NISE Network. Photo provided by the NISE Network.