Introduction

The holes that determine how well something will absorb a liquid are connected throughout the material. These narrow channels move water through the material. The process of water moving through narrow spaces without an outside force is called capillary action. We are going to demonstrate capillary action by using only water to stretch a piece of paper.

Experiment 1: Stretching paper

Materials

- Piece of writing paper, cut into a strip ½” x 5”
- Water
- Dropper or straw

Extension: Repeat the experiment with the same materials from Episode 6

Materials

- Construction paper
- Paper towel
- Foil

When we tested the materials to see how well they absorbed water, we could each one was a little different. Repeat the experiment by creating a strip of each of the additional materials and dropping water on each one to see how far it will stretch.

Link to video

Facebook:  https://www.facebook.com/scctrwa/videos/221394622451015/

YouTube:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZGOYiiHFoY&t=10s