



04737 Fuller Road, East Jordan, MI 49727
(231) 536-3369 | www.miravenhill.org
info@miravenhill.org

Raven Hill Discovery Center is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation.

Mission: Raven Hill provides a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history & the arts.

Chromatography

Gather your supplies: paper towels, coffee filters or other kinds of paper; scissors; glass with a little water in the bottom; black watercolor marker. Cut strips of paper and cut a point at one end. In the middle of the strip and just above the point, use the marker to make a dot about the size of a pencil eraser. Fold the strip over and hang it over the rim of the glass, so that the point of the strip just touches the water. Watch what happens. Which paper works better? How many colors can you see? Try it again with different colors of watercolor markers or other kinds of paper. Each color that is used to make black travels a different distance up the strip, because they are each different weights. The lightest colors travel the furthest. The amount of color that separates out shows how much of that color is used to make the original color, such as black. More of the color means more is used. Less means less is used to make the color.

Note to parents: You can also try it with pen or permanent marker, but you will need to use a little rubbing alcohol instead of water. Throw it out and wash the glass immediately after doing the experiment.



1. Gather supplies



2. Cut strips, add color



3. Fold strips over rim



4. Watch what happens

Have fun and clean up afterwards!