



**ANIMAL  
EDUCATION  
CENTRE**

# EDUCATION

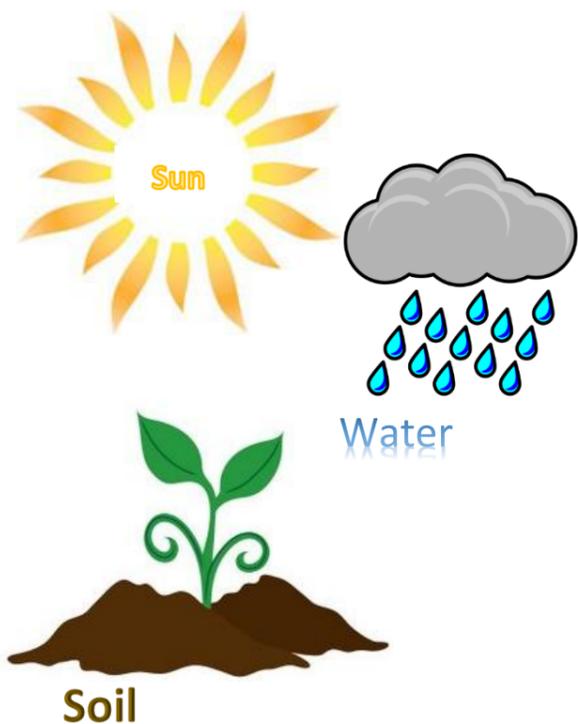
## Let's Explore: Science

# Colour Changing Flowers



## The Experiment

We all know what plants need to grow:



But how do they drink up the water from the soil? Let's find out...

Plants do not have a mouth like us, but they do get thirsty and need to drink the water held in the soil.

Instead of a mouth, they have roots. These long hair-like shoots spread out in all directions, acting like a sponge, to drink up as much water as possible.

This water then travels through the roots, to the base of the plant. It then continues to move up the stem and into the leaves and petals. Not one part of the plant goes thirsty. This movement of water is achieved through 'capillary action'.

But how do we know this happens if we can't see it?

### You Will Need:

- A white flower or flowers
- A glass of water per colour
- Food colouring
- Scissors

If you don't have flowers, why not try a celery stick or cabbage leaves

### Method:

- Fill your glass half way with fresh water
- Add 10-20 drops of food colouring
- Cut the base of your flower off to remove any dried/damaged ends
- Place your flower in the coloured water
- Observe what happens

What happens if?

You split the stem and place the separate sections into different coloured water?

After the experiment is over, you open up the stem. What can you see?

You use fluorescent highlighter ink in the water instead of food colouring? You will need a UV torch to see these results!



Working in partnership

# My Experiment – Colour Changing Flowers

Name: .....

What I Did:

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What I predict will happen:

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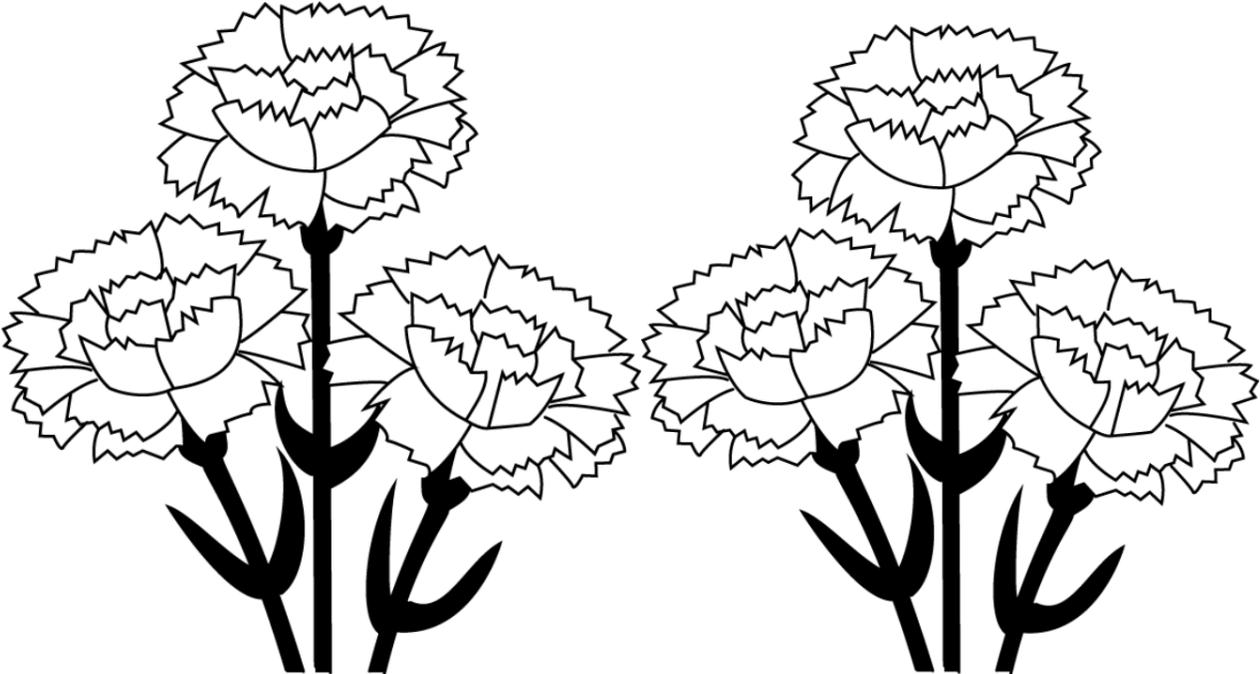
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**Results:** Use colours to show what has happened to your flowers



Final Comments:

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