Walking Water Science Experiment

*Recording/data sheet found below.

Materials: glass cups or jars, food coloring, water, paper towels, pencils, recording sheets

Approx. time needed: 15-30 minutes

Directions:
1. Break the class into groups (4-5 per group would probably work best).
2. Ask groups to decide on two colors. Put several drops of one color into one cup. Put several drops of the other color into the other cup. Place the empty cup in the middle.
3. Fill each cup/jar WITH FOOD COLORING ¾ full of water.
4. Give each group 2 paper towels and ask them to roll each paper towel like a snake.
5. Ask students to make hypotheses about what will happen next. Ask them to sketch their hypotheses on the attached form.
6. Place one end of the “snake” into the empty jar and one end into one of the colors. The other “snake” should be placed with one end in the empty jar and one jar in the other color. See photo.
7. Have students watch and make observations as the water travels up the paper towel and into the next glass. Record observations.
8. Once all three jars have the same amount of water and paper towels
are saturated, make some conclusions. What happened? Why do you believe that happened? What do you notice about the colors?

9. Complete the remainder of the data sheet.

10. Discuss hypotheses, observations, and conclusions as a class.

11. Extend: Ask each group to type their hypotheses and conclusions to be posted on your website and/or twitter page.

12. Extend: Take photos and ask each group to write/type out the steps in the experiment.

Possible Standards to Tie in:
- Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about kindergarten (first grade, second grade, third grade) topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.K.1

- Ask and answer questions about what a speaker says in order to gather additional information or clarify something that is not understood. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.1.3

- Recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.8

- Communicate about observations, investigations and explanations.

- Develop a simple sketch, drawing, or physical model to illustrate how the shape of an object helps it function as needed to solve a problem.

- Objects and materials can be sorted and described by their properties.

- Properties of objects and materials can change.

- All objects and substances in the natural world are composed of matter.

- Matter exists in different states, each of which has different properties.

- Plan and conduct an investigation to describe and classify different kinds of materials by their observable properties.
Walking Water Experiment
Recording and Data Sheet

**Question:** What will happen to the paper towels when one end is placed into a glass of water?

1. What materials will you use in this experiment?

2. What two colors did your group choose? _________________ and _________________

3. Make a **hypothesis.** What do you think will happen in this experiment? Sketch a picture of what you think will happen. Use colored pencils.
4. Make some **observations**. What is happening?

5. **Draw conclusions.** What happened?

6. Was your hypothesis correct?       Yes           Sort of        No

**Communicate** these results to another student in your class.