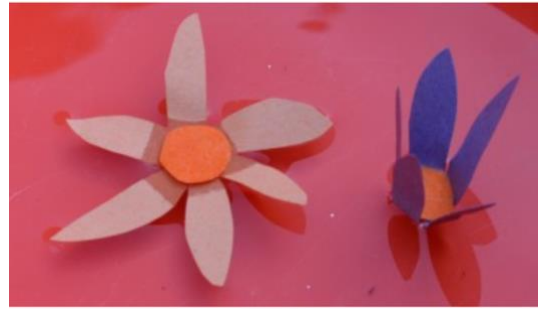


Flower Experiment



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Paper is made of lots of fibres. The spaces between the fibres can **absorb** water and when this happens, the paper **expands** which is why the flower opens up. The fibres and the sizes of the space between them vary from paper to paper which is why some flowers open faster than others.

When water flows into narrow spaces in this way, often against gravity, it is called **capillary action**. Another example of capillary action is water moving through the roots of a plant and into the stem and leaves.



Vocabulary
Absorb: to take in or soak up.



Expand: to become larger.



Capillary action: the ability of a liquid to flow into narrow spaces without the assistance of a force like gravity.

Now, in your own words, can you explain to someone in your family how the flowers open up?

Extension ideas and questions to think about:

- What would happen if you used thicker or thinner paper?
- What if you used different sized flowers?
- Does it still work if you use a different liquid like milk or cooking oil?