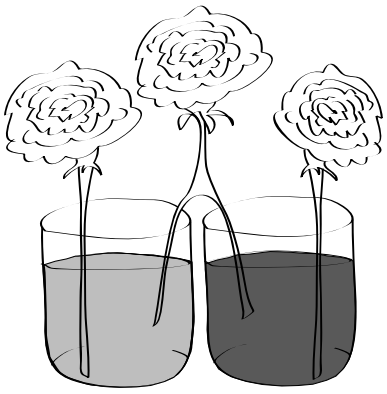
WATER! I NEED WATER!

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- 2 sturdy cups
- water
- food coloring (blue, red)
- 3 carnations
- knife (teacher-use only)

THIS CREATIVE ACTIVITY HELPS KIDS UNDERSTAND HOW PLANTS DRINK WATER!



Imagine life without straws! No one should have to drink a soda without one, right? Using water, food coloring, a few carnations—and not even ONE straw—you can show your students that people aren't the only ones to use "straws."

1. Fill each cup halfway with tap water.
2. Add about 30 drops of blue food coloring to one cup of water and 30 drops of red food coloring to the other.
3. Carnation #1: Cut the end of the carnation's stem at an angle and place the carnation into the cup of blue water.
4. Carnation #2: Cut the end of the carnation's stem at an angle and place the carnation into the cup of red water.
5. Carnation #3: Cut the end of the carnation's stem at an angle AND split the stem (starting at the bottom) down the middle to the halfway point. Place one of the splits in the cup of blue water and the other split in the cup of red water.
6. Wait about 24 hours and see what happens.

Flowers "drink" water in much the same way we drink from a straw—as water evaporates from the leaves and petals and goes into the air, water is pulled up through the stem of the flower like a straw. (Think: water molecules like to stick together and help pull each other along!)

Encourage the kids to talk about how water quality can be harmed. List ways we can help water quality.

BY LEARNING HOW PLANTS DRINK, KIDS LEARN THEY NEED TO AFFECT THEIR ENVIRONMENT IN A POSITIVE WAY!

ASK YOUR STUDENTS:

"What happened to the flowers? Where did the water go? Did something special happen to the split flower?"

SAMPLE

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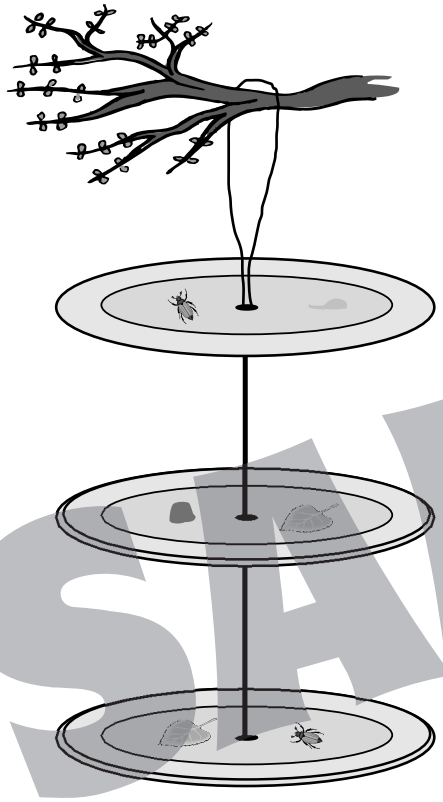
WHERE THE WIND BLOWS!

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
- plastic lids
- yarn or twine
- Vaseline

THIS CREATIVE WEATHER ACTIVITY HELPS KIDS "SEE" AIR MOVEMENT!



Even though kids can't see wind, this activity helps them "see" air movement and how the wind carries items from one place to another.

Collect one plastic lid per student plus a few extra. Use restaurant take-out drink and soup containers, and plastic food containers from the grocery store (cottage cheese, butter tubs, etc.). These are easy items for students to bring in from home.

You'll also need twine or yarn, and some Vaseline. (Tip: If you don't want the students' fingers in your Vaseline, scoop some out onto a plate or into a baggie.)

Punch a hole in the center of each of the plastic lids and give one to each student. Tell each student to write their name on the top of the lid and then smear Vaseline on the other side. String together 4-5 lids by tying them about a foot apart from each other. Hang each group of lids from a tree limb outside. After a few days, bring the lids back inside.

Divide students into groups based on whose lids are on the same string. Tell each group to look at the lids and see what they collected. Use a magnifying glass if available. Usually they'll have accumulated things like dirt, seeds, leaves, feathers, hair, and maybe even a few bugs. Students can observe, draw, and/or write about what they found. Use the Observation Journal template in the back of the book.

ASK YOUR STUDENTS:
"What might have blown onto the lids that we can't see because it is microscopic?" (pollen, etc.)

KIDS LOVE TO SEE WHAT INTERESTING (OR GROSS) THINGS GOT STUCK TO THEIR LIDS!

SAMPLE