

Absorption experiment

Brief summary:

In this activity you will be testing the absorbency of paper towels.

You will need:

- Masking tape
- Narrow glass jar
- Water
- Paper towels
- Marker

What to do:

Step 1. Stick a piece of masking tape lengthwise down the side of your jar.

Step 2. Fill the jar with water and mark the level of water on the tape with your marker.

Step 3. Fold one sheet of paper towel in half four times to make a small square.

Step 4. Dip the entire paper square into the jar of water and then remove.

Step 5. Mark the new water level on the tape then refill the jar with water to the original level.

Step 6. Lay three sheets of paper towels on top of each other and fold them in half four times to make a small square.

Step 7. Dip the paper square into the water, remove the wet paper and mark the water level on the masking tape. The water level will have decreased substantially compared to the single sheet of paper towel.

Take it further:

Repeat the experiment with other types of paper and cardboard, and other materials (such as fabric, cotton wool, wool, dish clothes, sponges etc). Which is the most absorbent?

Big questions:

- Is soil absorbent? What would happen if soil didn't absorb any water?
- Why is water important to soil health?

