

Materials

- Clear glass
- Water
- Food coloring
- Cut stalk of celery

Instructions 1 Fill the glass with water and add a few drops food coloring of your choice (just not plain green).

2 Cut a small stalk of celery near the bottom and make some observations and hypotheses. What color are the stalk and leaves? What is the texture of the cut end of celery? How do you think water travels through it? What do you think will happen when we put it in the colored water?

3 Place the celery stalk in the colored water with leafy ends at the top (above the water). Over a few days observe the celery in the jar. Does the color of the celery stalk change? Where did you first observe the color?



4 So what happened? Plants like celery have veins to transport water and nutrients from the soil to the rest of the plant - but that means they also take up whatever else is in the soil and water, including pollutants! In this experiment, the food coloring represented the pollutant, and demonstrated how harmful things in the water and soil can be taken up by the plant along with its water and essential nutrients.

