

Explanation of Thirsty Carnation Experiment

This experiment is an example of absorption.

The stem of the flower begins absorbing the colored water over the course of a few days. The stem is one way a plant that is growing from the ground gets water in order to survive. Plants also absorb water from the atmosphere through their leaves.

Other variations:

Obtain a flower with a long, thick stem (or a celery stalk with leaves) and slit it carefully from the bottom and put one end in separate glasses, each with a different food coloring. Your flower (or celery) should absorb two different colors.

Further observation:

When using celery stalk for the experiment, cut the stalk and see that the little holes inside are colored.