



DISAPPEARING COLORS EXPERIMENT

MATERIALS:

1 Tall Clear Glass
Water
Black Sharpie
Paper Towels
Markers
Index Card
Sandwich Zip Loc Bag

VOCABULARY:

Refraction
Visible Light
Refraction Index
Reflection
Speed
Light
Bend

DIRECTIONS:

1. Fill the glass with water.
2. Draw a simple picture on your index card with Sharpie.
3. Color it in with the markers.
4. Place the drawing in the Zip Loc Bag. Try to remove all air and then seal the bag.
5. Outline your drawing on the outside of the bag with the Sharpie.
6. Carefully slide the drawing into the glass of water while looking straight down into the glass at your drawing. Observe what happens (it should look like the colors disappear).



THE STEAM BEHIND THE EXPERIMENT:

When we inserted the plastic bag into the water, the light did not reach our eyes and the colors of the paper drawing “disappeared.” That happens because light rays change direction when they pass from air into water. This bending of the light is called refraction.

MAKE IT AWESOME:

Try the experiment again without outlining the drawing on the bag. What happens? (The entire thing should disappear).

EXTENSIONS:

1. What happens when you change the color of the water?
2. What happens when you outline the drawing in colored Sharpie?
3. What other changes can you come up with for this experiment?

WEBSITES AND VIDEOS:

1. Video Example of this Experiment: https://youtu.be/S_qF_2DtvV8
2. Make a Penny Disappear: <https://www.science-sparks.com/disappearing-coin-trick/>
3. Make Arrows Change Direction: <https://www.science-sparks.com/light-refraction-experiment/>
4. Bend a Pencil in Water: <https://raisinglifelonglearners.com/bending-pencil-science/>

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