

Colour in Felt-Tip Pens

The Science Behind the Experiment - A Guide for Adults

The process of chromatography involves using filter paper to separate different dissolved substances. The different parts of the mixture will move different distances up the paper. The felt-tip pens contain different coloured pigments. Some pigments are more soluble in water than others. The pigments that are more soluble, move further up the paper than the less soluble pigments. Each coloured dot will be made up of a different combination of pigments.

Science Experiment

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What can you see on the filter paper?

Look closely, what colours can you see?

Which dot has the most different colours in it?