



Drinking Plants - Teacher's Notes

How do plants transport water around so even the tips of the leaves get supplied?

Students will probably know that plants need water to survive but it's reasonable to assume that Kindergarten students won't understand that plants have cells and all of these need water, so it has to be moved around. Without going into too much detail, you can show students that plants have a transport system.

Place some celery stalks in a container of water with food colouring added. The celery should still have its leaves attached and after a few hours, you will be able to see the leaves starting to change the colour of the food colouring you have used.

This works best if you use very fresh celery and a strong solution of food colouring, red and blue give the best results.

After a day or so, if you slice through the celery stalk, you will see the 'veins' that the coloured water has travelled through. This experiment can also

be done with white flowers, such as carnations, but this is not always as successful.

