Chromatography Butterfly

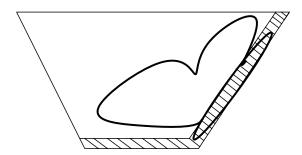
What you need:

- · Felt markers, in several colours
- Coffee filter
- Shallow dish of water
- Scissors

What to do:

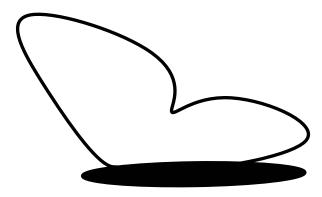
Draw a picture of a butterfly on the coffee filter.

Use the seam of the filter for the butterfly's body and extend the wings onto the filter.



Cut out the butterfly shape.

Colour the body of your butterfly with several colours of felt marker. The body will turn black or very dark brown. Leave the wings white.



Dip the black body of your butterfly into a shallow dish of water, and watch the colours spread up the wings.

How it works:

The black colour of the body is really made up of lots of other colours. The ink is drawn along tiny tubes within the paper in a process called *capillary action*. Heavier colours don't move as far as lighter ones, so the colours spread out gradually as the water moves further out into the wings of your butterfly.