

TRY THIS!

Making “Capillary Bookmarks”!

You'll always be able to find your page in the book because you will have a very cool bookmark.

You will need:

- 5 small bowls of water
- Some blotting paper
- 5 felt-tip markers of different colors
- Tape

Get started:

1. Cut blotting paper into 8-in. long, 2-inch wide strips (make 5).
2. Using the markers, put a large dot or design near the bottom of the strip (one colored marker for each strip).
3. Tape the strips to the bottom of a cabinet door so that they are hanging down to the counter top. (Make sure that the colored dots are at the bottom).
4. Put a bowl of water under each strip so that the strips are “touching” the water. (See diagram).
5. Now watch the water climb up the strips...like magic!
6. Let your bookmarks dry completely before using.

Question: How does the water climb up the paper?

Science Connection:

One of the powerful forces in nature is called “capillary action.” Paper is made of tiny fibers that are pressed closely together. Between the fibers are tiny tubes that you can only see under a microscope. Water molecules stick to the paper fibers and travel up the tubes.