

Vocabulary

Xylem - tubes that carry water through a plant.

Capillary Action - the tendency of a liquid to rise in narrow tubes

Try this: You can try the same experiment with a white carnation. The white flower will change color!

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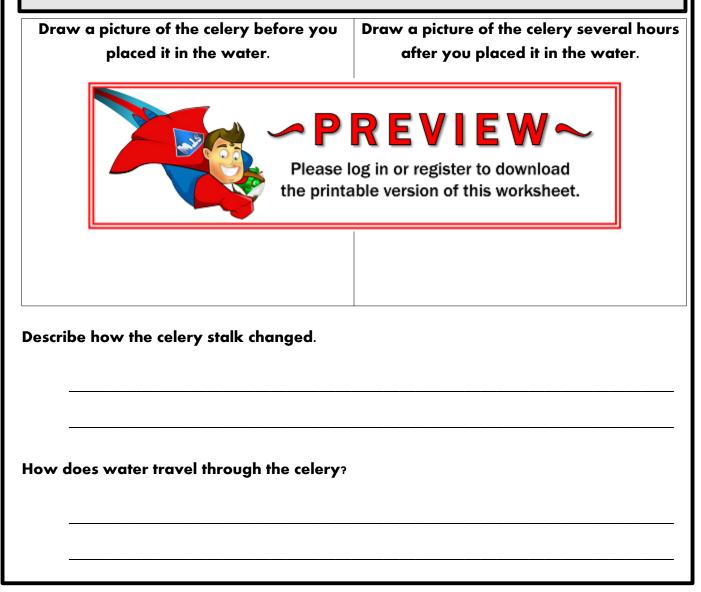
Colorful Celery Stalk

Directions:

Fill the cup about three-quarters full with water. Stir in a few drops of food coloring, so the water is brightly colored.

Remove one thick celery stalk from the bunch. With a sharp knife, have an adult carefully cut about an inch (2 cm) off the bottom of the stalk. Cut it at a slight angle and try not to "crush" the tubes. Keep the leaves attached to the top.

Place the celery in the colored water and wait for several hours.



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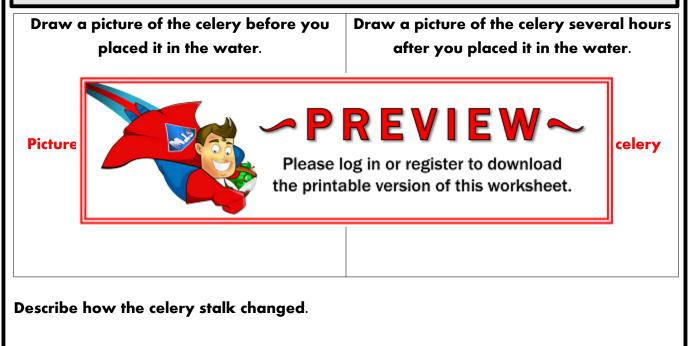
Colorful Celery Stalk – ANSWER KEY

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After placing the celery stalk in colored water for several hours, the stem and leaves started to change color.

How does water travel through the celery?

Answers will vary, depending on grade level. Younger students might simply state that the colored water travels from the bottom to the leaves on top. Older students might describe how capillary action pulls the water through the xylem tubes.