

2

Dye flowers

BLOOMING MARVELLOUS

There are more than 360,000 flowering plant species in the world.

Use science to make colourful blooms for Mother's Day on 30 March.

What you need

- 3 fresh white flowers
- Knife
- Three clear jars
- Food colouring
- Water

How does it work?

Special vessels inside the plant called xylem (say zye-lem) move water and minerals up the plant stem, from the roots and into the leaves and flowers. These "internal pipes" keep all parts of the plant hydrated and supplied with food. This experiment shows the xylem in action, drawing up coloured water through the stem and into the petals.



1 Ask an adult to help you trim the end of your flower stems at a 45° angle. Use a knife rather than scissors, because using scissors can squash the stems.



2 Add a few drops of food colouring to each of the three containers. You could use three different colours, or all the same. Put water in the jars and stir to mix.



3 Pop your flowers into the containers. After a few days, you should start to see colours appearing on the edges of the petals. Remove the flowers when you're happy with the results.