

# Whitney Water Center Learning from Home

## Episode 7: Absorption & Capillary Action

### Introduction

The holes that determine how well something will absorb a liquid are connected throughout the material. These narrow channels move water through the material. The process of water moving through narrow spaces without an outside force is called *capillary action*. We are going to demonstrate capillary action by using only water to stretch a piece of paper.

### Experiment 1: Stretching paper

#### Materials

- Piece of writing paper, cut into a strip ½" x 5"
- Water
- Dropper or straw

### Extension: Repeat the experiment with the same materials from Episode 6

#### Materials

- Construction paper
- Paper towel
- Foil

When we tested the materials to see how well they absorbed water, we could each one was a little different. Repeat the experiment by creating a strip of each of the additional materials and dropping water on each one to see how far it will stretch.

### Link to video

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/scctrwa/videos/221394622451015/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZGOYiiHFoY&t=10s>