SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATH



Color (K-2)

The SCIENCE of COLOR:



Blue, Indigo and Violet.

Orange, Yellow, Green,

Candies come in a variety of bright colors.





Bright food coloring comes from different dyes or **pigments**.

READ: The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt. What is your favorite color? Don't have this book at home? This book is also available online or you can enjoy read aloud videos.

ACTIVITY: CANDY CHROMATOGRAPHY

Materials: Water, salt, ruler, pencil, toothpick, tape/clips, plate, dropper/pipet, beaker, scissors, coffee filter, color-coated candy (we used skittles and M&Ms)

- 1. Mix 1/8 tsp salt in 3 cups water. Stir until dissolved.
- 2. Cut out two 2 x 4-inch rectangles from a coffee filter (this is the chromatography paper).
- 3. Mark a line in pencil ½ inch from the bottom of each. Label one Skittles and one M&Ms.
- 1. Sort the candies for matching colors (both packs should contain green, red, etc.)
- 4. Place 1 DROP of salt water on the plate for each color. Place one candy on each drop (different color on each drop). Repeat the process for the Skittles.
- 5. The water will dissolve the candy coloring. Remove the candy after 1-2 minutes.
- 6. Dab the toothpick into the colored water droplet and apply to the filter paper (2-3 drops) and let it dry. **TIP**: Use a clean end of a toothpick for each color
- 7. Tape or clip the papers to the pencil and hang over the beaker, just barely touching the saltwater.
- 8. When the water nears the top, take the papers out and let them dry. See the results! For step-by-step instructions, watch the video at: Candy Chromatography STEM Activity

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