CHROMATOGRAPHY FLOWERS
In this spring science activity children will create chromatography flowers using coffee filters! This STEAM activity is a simple way to explore chromatography, and kids love turning the results into a colorful flower craft when they’re finished.

MATERIALS
- White Coffee Filter
- Water Based Markers (Crayola and Mr. Sketch Markers work great!)
- Cups with Water
- Clear Tape
- Small sticks or twigs

LET'S GET STARTED!

1. COLORING THE COFFEE FILTER
Start by using the markers to color on the coffee filter. You can experiment with different colors, different designs, drawing close to the center of the filter, and drawing close to the edge of the coffee filter.

2. FOLDING THE COFFEE FILTER
Next, fold your coffee filter in half a few times so it becomes wedge-shaped. This will create a point where the center of the coffee filter is.

3. PLACING COLORED COFFEE FILTER IN WATER
Get a short glass or cup and fill it just a bit with water. Open up the top of the cone shaped coffee filter so it balances right on the glass with the tip of the cone just touching the water.

Note: You do not need to fill the cup all the way with water. This activity works better when only the very bottom of the coffee filter is touching the water.
4. **LET COFFEE FILTER SIT IN WATER FOR 5-10 MINUTES**
   Let it sit and watch what happens as the water begins to flow up the paper. It takes about 5-10 minutes for the water and marker to completely filter to the edge of each cone.

5. **LAY OUT COFFEE FILTER TO DRY**
   After the water has reached the outer edge of the coffee filter, place it on a newspaper or other paper to dry.

6. **FOLD INTO A FLOWER**
   When the coffee filter is dry, fold it again as you did to put it into the water. Pinch the middle of the filter and tape your stick or twig around it to make a stem. Fluff out the “petals” as you like.

**SOURCES:**