

# Carnation Coloring Lesson Plan

## Objectives:

- To identify parts of plants and discuss how they function
- To have visible evidence of plant functions that is fun and engaging

## Materials:

- 6 White Carnations
- 8 Plastic Cups
- Food Coloring (red, blue, green)
- Knife
- Water

## Preparation:

- This activity is best prepared at the beginning of the school day and observed at the end of the day, because the process can take a few hours to become clearly visible

## Introduction:

- Hand out sheets to students and identify the pieces of plants together
- Talk about the functions of a stem (supplying water and nutrients to the plant)

## Activity:

1. Fill four of the cups halfway with water
2. Add many drops of food coloring to two of the cups of water (25-30 drops or more)
3. Leave the fourth cup with plain water
4. Cut the end of the stem at an angle to facilitate faster absorption
5. Place one carnation in each cup
6. Next, fill two of the remaining cups halfway with water and add food coloring, and fill the other two with plain water
7. Split the stem of the last two carnations vertically and place half of each stem in a colored water cup and the other half in a clear one
8. Observe how the color of each carnation changes and in what patterns

## Wrap-Up:

- At the end of the day, when the results are clearly visible, talk with the students again about the function of the stem

- Ask students why they think the carnations with the split stems are colored half-and-half, rather than an even mix of the color and the white