

Engagement:

Pour a small amount of water on a student's desk and ask him or her to please clean it up. Ask someone to describe what happens when that student cleans it up? The materials that you clean it up with absorb the water. Now ask the class if this is a reversible or irreversible change? Refer back to what was learned in The Discovery lab.

Answer: This is a reversible change to the paper towel or rag because...

What You Will Need:

- Water
- Measuring cup
- Four labeled cups
- Timer
- Piece of paper, foil, cotton, paper towel

Exploration:

- Break students into small groups. Have one student measure 50ml of water into each labeled cup (paper, foil, cotton, paper towel).
- Have student's record predictions for what they think will happen if they dip each material into the water for 30 seconds.
- Dip a corner of the paper into the water for 30 seconds. Remove from water and set aside.
- Repeat step 3 with the other three materials. Then put the cups in order from least amount of water to most amount of water. Record your observations. After some time for exploration and observation, have them come up with their own experiment to answer the questions.

Explanation:

Discuss results.

- Did everyone get the same results?
- Why might the results have varied?
- How can we prove this is a reversible change?

Adaptions:

Students can draw their predictions and observations instead of writing them.

Extension:

Have student select other materials to try this absorption test on.

Next Generation Science Standards:

2PS1-2 Analyze data obtained from testing different materials to determine which materials have the properties that are best suited for an intended purpose.

