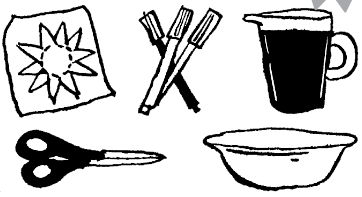
ANIMALS, PLANTS & CELLS

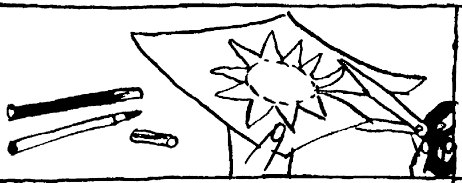
HOW DO YOU GET A WATER LILY TO BLOOM?

EASY
MEDIUM
HARD

YOU'LL NEED:

1 flower template
Colored pencils
1 pair of scissors
1 bowl
Water



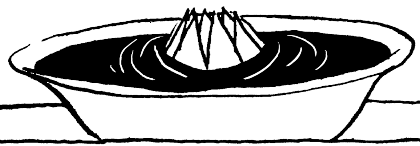


TRY THIS!

1. Take the flower template and cut out the flower. You can also color it in!

2. Now fold the tips of the leaves together in the middle so that it forms a closed flower.

3. Pour some water into the bowl.



4. Carefully place your folded water lily on the surface of the water and watch what happens!

WHAT HAPPENS?

The paper petals of your self-made water lily unfold very slowly. The flower moves its paper leaf tips towards the water until they touch the surface, making the flower bloom in colorful beauty!

WHY IS THAT?

Paper consists of small parts, the so-called “fibers”. When fibers soak up water, the paper expands – it becomes “bigger”. This is because water has a special property: it can climb up different materials – even outsmarting the earth's gravitational pull! This characteristic of water is known in physics as “capillary action”.

WHAT DO I NEED THIS FOR?

Capillary action helps plants to survive because it supplies them with water and food. There are thin, hollow tubes in the roots and stems of plants and water climbs up these tubes until it reaches the branches and leaves. With the help of water and sunlight, plants produce oxygen, which both animals and humans need to breathe!

BY THE WAY

When plants produce oxygen with light and water, it is called "photosynthesis“.