

Chromatography Lab

Purpose

To utilize paper chromatography in the separation of pigments in inks.

Materials

1000 mL beaker
chromatography paper
selection of markers
deionized water
50% ethanol mixture

Tips

- Mark the chromatography paper with pencil. Some sort of code or labeling is recommended.
- Do not allow spots of ink to fall below the level of the solvent or else they will dissolve off of the paper.
- One chromatograph will be enough for 5 spots. Don't make them too big!

Post-Lab Questions

1. What is chromatography? How does it work?
2. What differences (if any) did you notice between solvents?
3. Are all inks composed of the same substances? Explain.
4. If an ink is not water soluble how could you determine if that ink were a mixture or a pure substance?

Procedure

Write out a complete procedure or series of steps before you begin. Be detailed and include everything you do. You will use this procedure to complete the writing activity on Methods.