

Solar Paper Instructions

Special Notes

- * Your Solar Paper (cyanotype) is made of 100% natural fibers.
- * Since the Solar Paper is light-sensitive, it comes in a black, light-safe bag which should be opened and closed quickly when removing sheets.
- * Each sheet of Solar Paper can be printed on one or both sides and is durable for repeat rinsing. Your final print may be dyed, painted, drawn on, and/or embellished with stitching or bead work.

VBS Experiment Directions




Materials

- * **Rolling River Rampage Solar Paper**
- * shallow tub or reused cardboard and push pins, plus Plexiglas or plastic wrap to keep your prints in place
- * objects to take a "picture" of
- * water
- * (optional) Spangler Split Demo Tank from stevespanglerscience.com

Experiment

1. Place your Solar Paper in the shallow tub or pin the corners to a piece of cardboard for stability.
2. Place the objects you wish to "print" on top of the paper. (Note: the more solid the objects, the more defined the final print will be!) If your objects are particularly lightweight, you can hold them in place with a piece of plexiglass or clear plastic wrap.
3. Expose the paper to the sun for 10-20 minutes.
4. Remove the paper from the tray or cardboard and soak it in water for about one minute. In the video, Steve uses the Split Demo Tank to better observe the change that occurs when the paper is placed in water.
5. Remove the paper from the water and let it dry flat. The image will sharpen as it dries.

The print will be cyan blue and your design will be white. **Beautiful Blue!**

20 minutes	
15 minutes	
10 minutes	

Indoor Adaptation/Take It Further

Another interesting way to see the chemical reaction that occurs with Solar Paper is to test the effect of different types of light sources on the paper. You can test different light sources and the effect that various exposure times play in the process. Some light sources to try:

- * 100, 60, 40, 25 and 15 watt light bulbs
- * Green, red, blue, yellow and black light
- * Fluorescent light
- * Bug light
- * Infrared heat lamp

Try exposing the paper to each light source for set intervals of time, with zero exposure being your control in the experiment. Record your data and compare results between the light sources and exposure times.

Safety Note

The use of alternate light sources should be for demonstration only.