

# POLLUTION AND PLANTS

(Level: primary school to middle school)

SUBJECT: BIODIVERSITY  
EXPERIMENTS TO DO IN CLASS

## 1. THE QUESTION

**Amandine: “Can plants absorb pollution?”**

To answer this question, the association Planète Sciences and ADME propose the following experiment.

## 2. MATERIALS

- Glass pot
- A few white carnation flowers
- Food coloring
- Water

## 3. EXPERIMENT

1. Pour the food coloring into the pot
2. Add water and plunge the stems of the flowers in for at least 12 hours.
3. Observe the result: What happened?

## 4. GOING FURTHER

The stems of the flowers have taken up water and the coloring. This shows that if pollutants in water are small enough, plants will also take them up.

Some plant species cannot survive increased or toxic pollution, and other species are able to absorb pollutants and incorporate them into their plant structure. This is the same for air pollution and the reason for using certain plant species to “clean up” air or absorb pollutants from water.

*This experiment was designed by the association Planète Sciences.*