Finding food fraud with chromatography, 11–14

***Education in Chemistry***July 2018
[rsc.li/2JbAXsJ](https://rsc.li/2JbAXsJ)

## Worksheet answers

1. Which of the natural colours they tested (B–E) are made up of two different colours? Explain your answer.

***E is made up of two colours. It has two spots above its starting place in the chromatogram.***

1. How many colours are in the purple jelly sweet? Which of the other colours (A–E) does the purple colour contain?

***Three colours. A, C and D.***

1. Is the ingredient list on Jellyfish Sweet Co sweet packets accurate? Explain your answer.

***No, the ingredients list is not accurate. The purple jelly sweet contains colour A which is synthetic. So, the company cannot claim their jelly sweets contain only natural flavourings.***

1. One of the students says colour E is present in the purple jelly sweet. This is incorrect. Explain why the student may have come to this conclusion and explain how you can tell E is not in the purple jelly sweet.

***E has two spots in its chromatogram and one of these is also seen in sample X. This may have caused the confusion for the student. E is definitely not in the purple jelly sweet as the higher spot from E is not also seen in the sample X.***

1. What was the mobile phase in the experiment?

***Water***

1. What was the stationary phase?

***Paper***

1. Which of the colours was most soluble in the mobile phase? Explain your answer.

***Colour B, it has travelled furthest up the paper (so must be more strongly attracted to the water).***

1. What did the students use to draw their origin line? Explain their choice.

***Pencil. They had to use something that would not dissolve in water. If they had used a pen, the colours of the pen’s ink would have run/separated in the water.***