



## FUN ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

# ‘Soap’ & pepper



## INTRODUCTION

This activity introduces small children to the idea that soap gets rid of germs and viruses and that it is important to wash your hands.

## THE SCIENCE

Soap doesn't kill germs, it sees them off!

Germs stick to the oils and grease on our hands. Water alone doesn't remove germs because water and oil don't mix. But soap molecules are surfactants, which means they have one water loving end (hydrophilic) and one oil loving end (hydrophobic).

When you wash your hands with soap, the soap molecules act as a mediator between the water and oil molecules and bind with both of them at the same time. Then when you rinse everything off, the soap carries away the germs with the water.

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- Two plates
- Black pepper (in grinder)
- Hand soap
- Water

## INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Pour some water onto one plate
- 2 Grind pepper (germs/virus) on top of the water
- 3 Dip finger in... no response and pepper on finger
- 4 Put some hand soap on the other plate
- 5 Dip finger in hand soap
- 6 Dip soapy finger in the peppered surface of the water and watch the pepper rush away to the edges!

**!** **Mop up any spills when completing the activity and wash your hands once finished.**

This activity takes

5  
mins

plus an introduction

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