

GERM EXPERIMENTS: POWER OF SOAP

LEARNING OUTCOME

Education - The aim of this activity is to help children to understand the importance of soap and how it is used to eliminate germs. Since germs are not visible to the naked eye, it is harder for children to understand that there are germs on our hands that need to be washed away. These activities allow the children to 'see' the germs moving away. At the end of the experiment, get your child to draw what they see!

There are 3 fun visual experiments that teach children the power of soap and how it makes germs slippery. You will be using different things to represent the soap and germs.



LET'S
EDUCATE!

PERFECT
FOR
AGES 3-6

INSTRUCTIONS

Experiment: Germs in Milk

What you will need:

- Full fat milk
- Green food colouring
- Cotton buds
- Plate
- Bowl
- Washing up liquid

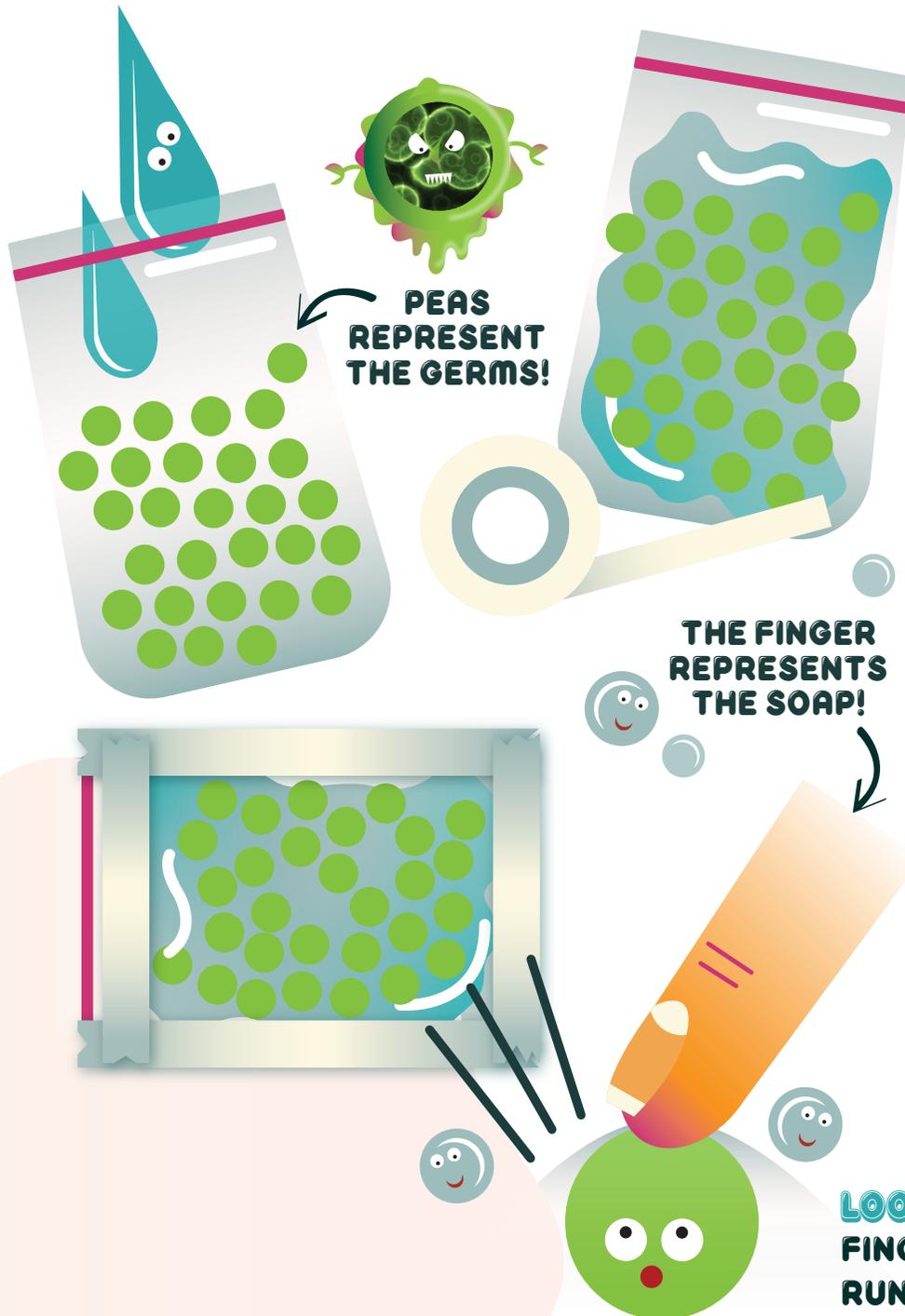
Method:

1. First let's pour out some milk into a plate, with just enough to cover the bottom of the plate.
2. Now in another little bowl, mix some washing-up liquid with some water.
3. Leave out a few cotton buds, and some bottles of food colouring, preferably green to represent the germs.
4. We are now going to put some drops of food colouring into the milk. Can you see where the drops have landed?
5. Now dip a cotton bud into the washing up liquid solution and touch the milk to see what happens. What can you see? Do you see the green food colouring moving away from the soap?

Experiment: Pepper Vs. Soap

What you will need:

- A small bowl of water (one for each child would be best)
- Ground black pepper or dried herbs
- A small bowl of soap (everyone can share)



Method:

1. First let's fill up a bowl with water and sprinkle pepper on the top of the water
2. Explain to your child that the pepper represents germs and can spread and make us sick
3. Now let's stick one finger in the 'germs' and see what happens. You will probably see that germs got stuck on them!
4. Now let's put a clean finger in the soap and swirl it around until it covers the end of the finger
5. Put the soapy finger into the 'germs' (the pepper)
6. The 'germs' should be repelled by the soap and should quickly move away from the finger. Can you see it moving?

Experiment: Sensory Germs

What you will need:

- 1 large Ziploc bag
- Water
- Frozen peas
- Tape

Method:

1. First, fill half the bag with half a cup of peas
2. Fill the rest of the bag with water, seal the bag securely. As you close the Ziploc bag make sure to remove as much air as possible.
3. Lay the bag flat and test to make sure it has enough peas and water. You want the bag to jiggle when you touch it and you want the green peas to be spread all across the bag.
4. Tape your bag to the table or laminated floor using masking tape. When taping the bag to the surface, only tape down the very edge of the bag.
5. Allow your child to use their finger to press the bag; they will see that the peas will start to move away from their finger. Explain that their finger in this case is the soap and it is scaring the germs away - the germs being the peas.

LOOK! THE PEAS ARE MOVING AWAY FROM YOUR FINGER! YOUR FINGER IS THE SOAP AND GERMS RUN AWAY FROM SOAP LIKE THIS...