

Fun with Science



Clean Away The Germs



Things you will need:

- Bowl of water
- Ground black pepper
- Liquid Soap

Instructions:

Pour some ground black pepper into a bowl of water and watch how it floats and covers the surface. Explain that we are going to think of the pepper like it is germs. Put a finger into the bowl and watch how the pepper or germs stick to you. Then cover your finger with liquid soap. Put the soapy finger into the water and watch all the germs run away. A great demonstration of how important washing your hands with soap is to get rid of germs.

The science behind it:

By adding soap to the water we break down the surface tension of the water. This is part of why soap is such a great cleaner. When soap is added the surface tension is reduced and this makes the water spread out. As it does this it carries the pepper with it away from the soap.