

STEAM STORY TIME

AT HOME: GERMS!

Suggested Reading

- *Do Not Lick This Book* by Idan Ben-Barak and Julian Frost
- *Llama Llama Home With Mama* by Anna Dewdney
- *Sick Simon* by Dan Krall
- *How Do Dinosaurs Get Well Soon?* by Jane Yolen

Activity 1: Grow Mold (eeeww!)

Supplies:

- 1 apple, cut into quarters
- 4 jars/containers with lids
- Labels (provided)
- Tape
- Patience

Prompt:

Get ready to be grossed out (in about a week). You are going to try to grow some mold from germs from your hands. One apple will be the "control" which means that you won't do anything to it. The other three will be ones on which you have rubbed your hands with varying degrees of cleanliness. Read on to find out how.

1. For the control apple, place it in the jar without touching it (try pushing it off the steril cutting board with a clean utensil, or using a clean pair of latex gloves).
2. For the second apple, rub your hands all over it after it has been a few hours since the last time you washed your hands. Place this apple in a jar and label it "Unwashed hands."
3. For the third apple, wash your hands independently (meaning without grownup help). Rub your hands on the apple. Place this apple in a jar and label it "Washed without help."
4. For the fourth apple, wait until it is time to wash your hands again. This time have grown up help, making sure that you use enough soap and scrub for 20 seconds. Rub your hands on the apple. Place this apple in a jar and label it "Washed with help."
5. Place all four jars in the same place, in an area they won't be in the way or be disturbed.
6. Every day, check on the apples. Draw or write down what you observe in your science journal.
7. How long it will take to grow mold will vary. It may take a week or longer. Once you start to see mold, continue to observe them. Keep observing for as long as you can stand having the samples around your house.

Questions:

What differences do you see between each of your apple samples? Which one sample has the most mold? Why do you think that is? Which has the least? Why do you think that is?

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Activity 2: Wash Your Balloon Hands

Supplies:

- Latex glove
- Rubber band
- Washable marker
- Sink
- Warm water
- Soap

Prompt:

Washing our hands throughout the day, such as after using the restroom or before we eat, will help to keep us healthy! Germs are so tiny that we cannot see them. Even though we cannot see the germs, they are there. Washing off all the germs on our hands takes about 20 seconds.

Directions:

1. If not done yet, draw "germs" on the gloves.
2. Blow up the glove and seal with a rubber band.
3. Fill a sink with warm soapy water.
4. Wash off all of the "germs" on the glove.

Activity 3: Design a Hand Washing Poster

Supplies:

- Paper
- Coloring Utensils

Prompt:

Create a poster to remind people to wash their hands. You can make it for a kitchen or bathroom. Think about how to make your poster appealing to people so that they notice it. What information do you want to include? Will you have words, pictures, or both? (It's okay if your child is unable to write. Scribbles with purpose are perfectly good). The kit includes a started poster (Wash your hands!) and blank paper. Chose the one you want to use.

Share your posters with us!

Email Kristina at

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or tag us on social media

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WASH

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