

Horrid Hands




Science Film Festival
 Knowledge Through Entertainment

KEY OBJECTIVES

To understand that infection can be spread through touch.

To understand that we can pick up microbes through things we touch and spread them to others.

To understand that we wash hands to remove microbes.

To understand that washing hands is the best way to prevent the spread of microbes.

To understand that washing with soap and water is better than using water alone.

INTRODUCTION

In this session, students will learn how microbes can spread through touch and that the best way to remove microbes and prevent them from spreading is by washing your hands with soap and water.

Activities include:

- “Horrid hands” experiment to observe how microbes can spread from person to person by shaking hands
- Activity that shows which handwashing method is best at removing microbes
- “Horrid hands” facts sheets and quiz to use in class

Microbes spread easily through coughs and sneezes, food and water, animals, and touch. Every day thousands of microbes get onto our hands from the things we touch and we transfer these microbes onto other place or people.

Washing your hands is the best tactic to stop the spread of any harmful microbes and preventing people getting ill. Although washing hands in water alone, or in cold water eliminates visible dirt, soap

KEYWORDS

Microbes

LEVEL

Early Learner & Primary School

TIME FOR ACTIVITY

50 min

is required to break up the oil on the surface of the hands that can trap microbes.

Most microbes on our hands are harmless or even good for our skin. Sometimes however, we can pick up potentially harmful microbes from the things we touch every day e.g. toilet handles, raw food, dishcloths and other peoples’ hands when we shake them!

How we wash our hands is just as important as when we wash them, especially when it comes to eliminating harmful microbes. We don’t need any special cleaners or cleaning equipment – just soap and water.

Horrid Hands Quiz



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We should only wash our hands once a day



We should never use soap to wash our hands



All the microbes on our hands are good for us



Soap can remove more microbes than washing with water alone



We should wash our hands after sneezing into them



Microbes can spread from person to person when we touch things



You can pick up microbes from door handles



Washing our hands often can help stop us getting ill



There is no need to wash your hands before visiting friends or family in hospital



Microbes can hide in the oil of our skin to avoid being washed away



You should always wash between your fingers



All microbes on our hands are bad for us



There is no need to wash your hands often because microbes cannot live more than 5 minutes on many surfaces



Horrid Hands Quiz




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- 1** We should only wash our hands once a day

We pick up microbes from the things that we touch, so we should wash our hands often. **FALSE**
- 2** We should never use soap to wash our hands

Soap helps to remove bad microbes from our hands so we should always use soap to wash our hands. **FALSE**
- 3** All the microbes on our hands are good for us

Microbes on our hands are both good and bad. **FALSE**
- 4** Soap can remove more microbes than washing with water alone

Soap removes the oil on our hands, which washes away microbes. This removes more microbes than washing with water alone. **TRUE**
- 5** We should wash our hands after sneezing into them

Sneezes contain bad microbes which can spread onto our hands when we sneeze. **TRUE**
- 6** Microbes can spread from person to person when we touch things

Microbes are found on our hands and when we touch things, we can spread these microbes on to other people. **TRUE**
- 7** You can pick up microbes from door handles

We pick up microbes from the things that we touch such as door handles, school desks or the floor. **TRUE**
- 8** Washing our hands often can help stop us getting ill

Washing our hands is the best way to remove bad microbes from our hands that could make us ill. **TRUE**
- 9** There is no need to wash your hands before visiting friends or family in hospital

We should wash our hands before visiting people in hospital so that we don't take bad microbes into the hospital that could make people ill. **FALSE**
- 10** Microbes can hide in the oil of our skin to avoid being washed away

Microbes stick to the oil on our skin. This is why we should use soap to wash our hands, as it removes the oil and washes away the microbes. **TRUE**
- 11** You should always wash between your fingers

Microbes are found between our fingers! **TRUE**
- 12** All microbes on our hands are bad for us

Microbes on our hands are both good and bad. **FALSE**
- 13** There is no need to wash your hands often because microbes cannot live more than 5 minutes on many surfaces

We should wash our hands often as microbes can live for up to 2 hours on some surfaces. **FALSE**