Name: _____ Date: _____

Washing Away Germs

Circle group

Germs are living things so small that you cannot see them. Some germs are harmless, but some can make you sick. Germs can stick to your hands when you touch a door handle, a pencil, or a pet. Then you might touch your eyes, nose, or mouth. The germs can get into your body that way.

Washing your hands with soap and water is a very good way to stop germs. Water alone does not work as well. Each tiny piece of soap has one end that grabs oil and dirt. The other end grabs water. When you rub your hands, the soap pulls germs off your skin. The water washes them away.

Scrub for about twenty seconds. That is as long as it takes to sing the happy birthday song twice. Wash the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.

Wash your hands before you eat. Wash them after you use the bathroom. Wash them after you cough, sneeze, or play outside.

Questions

1. What are germs?

_____

_____

2. How can germs get into your body?

_____

_____

3. Why does soap work better than water alone?

_____

_____

4. How long should you scrub your hands?

_____

_____

5. Which parts of your hands should you remember to wash?

_____

_____

6. When should you wash your hands?

_____

_____

Words to know

germs: tiny living things that can cause sickness
harmless: not able to hurt anyone
scrub: to rub hard to get something clean

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Washing Away Germs

Triangle group

Germs are living things so small that you cannot see them. Some germs are harmless, but others can make you sick. Germs can stick to your hands when you touch a door handle, a pencil, or a pet. If you then touch your eyes, nose, or mouth, the germs can get into your body.

Washing your hands with soap and water is one of the best ways to stop germs from spreading. Water alone does not work as well. Each tiny piece of soap has one end that grabs oil and dirt and another end that grabs water. When you rub your hands together, the soap pulls germs off your skin, and the water washes them away.

Scrub for about twenty seconds. That is about as long as it takes to sing the happy birthday song twice. Be sure to wash the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.

Wash your hands before you eat, after you use the bathroom, and after you cough, sneeze, or play outside.

Questions

1. What are germs?

_____

_____

2. How can germs get into your body?

_____

_____

3. Why does soap work better than water alone?

_____

_____

4. How long should you scrub your hands?

_____

_____

5. Which parts of your hands should you remember to wash?

_____

_____

6. When should you wash your hands?

_____

_____

Words to know

germs: tiny living things that can cause sickness
harmless: not able to hurt anyone
spreading: moving from one place or person to another
scrub: to rub hard to get something clean

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Washing Away Germs

Square group

Germs are living organisms so minuscule that you cannot see them. Some germs are harmless, but others can make you ill. Germs can cling to your hands when you touch a door handle, a pencil, or a pet, and if you then touch your eyes, nose, or mouth, the germs can enter your body.

Washing your hands with soap and water is one of the most effective ways to prevent germs from spreading, because water alone does not work nearly as well. Each tiny piece of soap has one end that grabs oil and dirt and another end that grabs water. When you rub your hands together, the soap pulls germs off your skin, and the water carries them away.

Scrub for approximately twenty seconds, which is about as long as it takes to sing the happy birthday song twice. Be sure to wash the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and underneath your nails.

Wash your hands before you eat, after you use the bathroom, and after you cough, sneeze, or play outside.

Questions

1. What are germs?

_____

_____

2. How can germs enter your body?

_____

_____

3. Why is soap more effective than water alone?

_____

_____

4. How long should you scrub your hands?

_____

_____

5. Which parts of your hands should you remember to wash?

_____

_____

6. When should you wash your hands?

_____

_____

Words to know

germs: tiny living things that can cause sickness
harmless: not able to hurt anyone
spreading: moving from one place or person to another
scrub: to rub hard to get something clean

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Washing Away Germs

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Washing Away Germs

Easier · 167 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.2

1. Living things so small that you cannot see them.
2. You touch your eyes, nose, or mouth with hands that have germs on them.
3. One end of the soap grabs oil and dirt and the other grabs water, so it pulls germs off and the water washes them away.
4. About twenty seconds.
5. The backs, between the fingers, and under the nails.
6. Before you eat, after you use the bathroom, and after you cough, sneeze, or play outside.

Triangle: Washing Away Germs

This passage · 172 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.3

1. Living things so small that you cannot see them.
2. If you touch your eyes, nose, or mouth with hands that have germs on them.
3. One end of the soap grabs oil and dirt and the other grabs water, so it pulls germs off your skin and the water rinses them away.
4. About twenty seconds.
5. The backs, between the fingers, and under the nails.
6. Before you eat, after using the bathroom, and after coughing, sneezing, or playing outside.

Square: Washing Away Germs

Harder · 175 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.2

1. Living organisms so minuscule that you cannot see them.
2. If you touch your eyes, nose, or mouth with hands that have germs on them.
3. One end of the soap grabs oil and dirt and the other grabs water, so it pulls germs off your skin and the water carries them away.
4. Approximately twenty seconds.
5. The backs, between the fingers, and underneath the nails.
6. Before you eat, after you use the bathroom, and after you cough, sneeze, or play outside.