

## Potato Petri Dish

WASH HANDS. Slice two potatoes into four pieces. Give each piece the following treatment and then place the slice into a “treatment-labeled” Ziploc bag. Store the bags in a warm dark place for incubation.

1. Dip one potato piece into a 5% solution of chlorine bleach (5ml in 100ml). Remove the piece with sterilized tweezers and place it into a Ziploc bag.
2. Put fingerprints all over another piece, or pass it around the classroom for everyone to touch (unwashed hands).
3. Ask one student to wash hands and then touch a piece on both sides.
4. Wipe one piece on both sides on the floor.
5. Using a variety of “antibacterial” wipes, lotion, and/or hand sanitizers, have a student use one product then touch both sides of the potato.

Observe the potatoes for microbial growth every other day for the next week. Ask students to record their observations. At the end of 2 weeks review the results and make some class conclusions.

