

The Clean Team



Soaper
Man



Water
Woman



Dry
Boy

Interdisciplinary Unit Plan

Grade levels: elementary level

The information in this unit plan is intended as a general guide for elementary school educators. Modify as needed for the grade level taught.

Resources and information available at www.soaperhero.org are italicized and underlined.

Subjects:

- Health
- Arts/Music
- Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science

Overview:

“Hand washing is the single most effective way to prevent the spread of infection,” according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Informal classroom studies have shown that thorough and frequent hand washing can help reduce illness and absenteeism in children. The importance of hand washing can be combined in a number of interdisciplinary lessons and activities over a 3-4 week period.

Objectives:

- To teach students the importance of hand washing
- To encourage frequent and proper hand washing by students both at school & home
- To reduce the risk of spreading infection

Arts/Music

- Make Soaper Hero (Soaper Man, Water Woman and Dry Boy) and germ-monster puppets using foam board or construction paper
- Have students write and perform a Soaper Hero puppet show, complete with *Soaper Hero song*
- Write a class hand washing theme song; sing the song every day
- Create a class banner with messages about hand washing
- Draw what different kinds of germs might look like
- Draw what other Soaper Heroes might look like
- Have a poster contest

Language Arts

- Read *Those Mean, Nasty, Dirty Downright Disgusting but...Invisible Germs* to the class (*ordering information on the Soaper Hero suggested reading list.*)
- Provide a display of resource books and children's literature having to do with hand washing (*See the Soaper Hero suggested reading list.*)
- Write creative stories with the Soaper Heroes (Soaper Man, Water Woman, and Dry Boy) and germ-monsters as main characters.

Mathematics

- Using the *hand washing counter sheet*, found under Kids Zone, have student mark each time he/she washes his/her hands. At the end of the week, have students bring back counter sheets. As a class, count how many Germ-monsters you've crossed off.
- Bubbles Galore– Students blow bubbles, measure them, predict their staying power, and graph the results. Lesson plan can be found at: http://www.education-world.com/a_tsl/archives/02-1/lesson023.shtml

Science

- **Bubble-Ology**– make bubbles and teach students to be aware of the fascination of astronomy and teach elementary scientific principles. Lesson can be found at:

<http://askeric.org/cgi-bin/printlessons.cgi/Virtual/Lessons/Science/CI0003.html>

- **Using Petri dishes**, look at the number of bacteria that can be produced. Compare the difference between washed and unwashed hands. Lesson can be found at: www.accessexcellence.org

Want to share your success teaching hand washing?

Go to www.soaperhero.org.

Click on “What’s Your Story”. You can type in narrative and attach pictures. A monthly drawing for a special prize for those who submit will be held.

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