



GERMS!

Target Audience: Youth Ages 8-12

Description: Germs! is a hands-on curriculum designed to introduce youth to the basic concepts of Chemistry and Microbiology. Students will use science processing skills like observation, measuring, comparing, predicting, experimenting, and relating.

Activities: Students will experiment with germs in Petri Dishes, do a hand washing activity, play a game involving acids and bases, and create their own giant prokaryote! This curriculum includes lesson plans and all non-perishable materials for each session.

Format: Each session is designed to last one hour.

Session 1: Students will learn about prokaryotes and eukaryotes by playing a sorting game and creating their own prokaryote. They will also investigate eukaryotic cells by looking at their cheek cells under a microscope.

Session 2: Students will watch a MythBusters episode about germs, do a handshaking and hand washing experiment to see how germs can spread.

Session 3: Students will investigate the types of germs that grow in a school. In small groups, students will work together to collect samples from various locations and place their samples in a Petri dish. Students will learn about the scientific method by making predictions about their findings on a Scientific Method worksheet.

Session 4: Students will complete their Scientific Method worksheet by examining their findings from the previous session. Students will also watch a Magic School Bus video and have a discussion about how germs can spread.

Session 5: Students will do a cavity simulation with apples. Students will also learn about the microscopic organism, yeast, and how what it eats.

Session 6: Students will investigate their findings from the previous session and have a class discussion about what they found. Students will also be introduced to acids/bases and how they can affect our teeth by playing a game and measuring the pH in different beverages.

The "Germs!" curriculum and kit can be borrowed for one month.