The Germ Spread Challenge with Glitter



Grade: 3rd Grade | **Topic:** The Germ Spread Challenge with Glitter | **Measurement:** US Customary (cups, ounces, inches, etc.)

Purpose

This experiment shows how germs can spread from person to person through touch. It helps us learn why washing hands is important to stop germs from spreading.

Hypothesis

If I use glitter on my hands to represent germs, then touching objects and people will spread the glitter to many places, showing how germs can spread too.

Materials

- 1 small container of fine glitter (any color except very dark colors)
- 1 tablespoon of hand lotion or moisturizer
- Paper towels or tissues
- Soap and water for handwashing
- Several small objects to touch (such as toys, books, doorknobs)
- A clean plate or tray to catch falling glitter
- Optional: small sticky notes to label objects

Procedure

- 1. 1. Put about 1 tablespoon of hand lotion on your hands and rub it evenly to cover your palms and fingers.
- 2. 2. Shake a small amount of glitter onto your hands so it sticks to the lotion. This glitter represents germs on your hands.
- 3. 3. Without washing your hands, touch several objects around you, such as toys, books, or doorknobs. Try to touch each object once or twice.
- 4. 4. Ask a family member or friend to shake hands with you or give a high five.
- 5. 5. Look carefully at the objects and the other person's hands to see where the glitter has spread.
- 6. 6. Use paper towels to gently wipe some objects and note if glitter transfers onto the towels.
- 7. 7. Finally, wash your hands well with soap and water, rubbing for at least 20 seconds. Dry your hands and observe if any glitter remains.
- 8.8. Clean up all glitter carefully by wiping and disposing of used paper towels in the trash.

Results

You will see glitter spread to many objects you touched and the other person's hands. After washing, most glitter will be gone from your hands, showing how soap and water help remove germs.

Conclusion

Glitter spreads easily from one surface or person to another, just like germs do in real life. Washing hands with soap and water helps remove germs and keeps us healthier.

Learning Objectives

- Understand how germs can spread through contact.
- Recognize the importance of handwashing to stop germs.
- Observe how quickly germs travel in everyday situations.

Teacher Notes:

Key Concept: This experiment models how germs spread through direct contact with surfaces and people. It visually demonstrates the invisible way germs move and why hand hygiene is essential.

Answer/Explanation: The glitter sticks to the lotion like germs stick to skin. When you touch objects or shake hands, the glitter moves just as germs would. Washing hands removes glitter by washing away both lotion and glitter, representing germ removal.

Teaching Tips:

• Encourage careful observation and discussion about where the glitter ended up. 2. Remind students to wash hands properly after the experiment. 3. Use this experiment to start conversations about when and why to wash hands. 4. Consider repeating the activity after handwashing to compare results.

Relevant Standards: NGSS 3-LS3-2: Use evidence to support the explanation that traits can be influenced by the environment., NGSS 3-5-ETS1-2: Generate and compare multiple possible solutions to a problem based on how well they meet criteria and constraints.

Name:	Science
Date:	Coperiments
Experiment Title:	
Purpose: (I wonder)	
Hypothesis: (I think)	
Materials:	
Procedure:	
Results: (What happened?)	
Conclusion: (I learned)	