



# Simple Science



**\*Let's explore germs and soap\***



**Materials Needed:** bowl of water, pepper, dish soap

## **Directions:**

1. Fill a shallow bowl with water.
2. Sprinkle some black pepper in the water. (these are the germs)
3. Put your plain finger in the middle of the pepper water. What happens?
4. Put some dish soap on the end of your finger.
5. Put your finger in the middle of the pepper water. What happens?

**Science:** It's cool just because the pepper (germs) floats!! When you put your plain finger in the middle of the "germs" the only thing that happens is you may get some germs on your finger. Yuck! Now when you put some soap on your finger and put it in the germs watch the germs run away!! Fantastic!! This demonstrates how using soap helps keep the germs away and keeps us healthy. The science is that the **surface tension** of the water makes the pepper float but the soap is formulated to break through the surface tension to clean things, thus pushes the pepper away.

## **???Questions to Ponder???**

\*What if I put ketchup on my finger instead of soap?\*

\*What other spices could I try this with?\*

\*What happens if I use different types of soap (bar, bubble bath, hand soap)?\*