

HAND WASHING

By Susanne Johnston, Germantown Academy, Fort Washington, PA

Teacher Preparation:

Fill soap bottle(s) with Glo Germ
Obtain UV light source

Student Preparation

1. As students arrive in class, tell them that they will be working with microbes and that they must first wash their hands. Provide them with the Glo Germ soap.
2. Then tell the students that you will be testing their hands with a special UV light to determine if there are any microbes on their hands. The microbes will appear to glow orange. In most cases you will find them in between the fingers, on the back of the hands and around the fingernails.
3. Allow the students to wash again if they wish to. At this point you can tell them that it was the soap that left the color on their hands and that it was a demonstration to show them about the importance of hand washing.
4. Show them the videotape from 20/20 about the importance of hand washing.
5. This demonstration should lead into a healthy discussion about the transmission of microbes.