

GRADE LEVEL	K-2
RELATED MONTH	February – All's Fair in Love and Health
COMPETENCY	H1 - Comprehend concepts related to health promotion and disease prevention to enhance health.
OBJECTIVE	To have students understand what germs are and where they live.
CONTENT STRAND	Personal Health (PH)
INTEGRATED SUBJECT AREA(S)	Language Arts Science
DURATION	70 minutes
PREREQUISITES	Students will need to know the meaning of the word "germ".
MATERIALS	Potatoes Knife Brown paper bag Plastic ziploc bags Pencil Markers Mr. Germ Head handout
DESCRIPTION	<p>In preparation for the activity, the teacher researches germs using the resource found in the Additional Resources section. Prior to teaching the lesson, the teacher should gather all the materials needed and cut the potatoes in half. The teacher should print out the "Mr. Germ Head" handout for each student. The handout can be found in the Additional Resources section.</p> <p>The teacher will lead a discussion about what germs are and where they live. The teacher should explain that germs are everywhere and can be found on people, objects, dirt, walls, pencils, etc.</p> <p>The teacher will give a half of a potato to each student. The teacher will instruct the students to rub their potatoes on different objects in the classroom and on the playground. The teacher will keep one half of a potato clean. The teacher will have each student put their half of a potato in a plastic ziploc bag with their name on the outside of the bag. The teacher will then put the dirty potatoes and the clean potatoes in a brown paper bag and monitor them for one week. Using the handout, the teacher will have the students write about the changes in the dirty potatoes each day and look at the difference between the clean potato and the dirty one. At the end of the week, the students should see a big difference between the clean and dirty potatoes. The students should be given 10 minutes each day to write their findings.</p>
ASSESSMENT	Student assessment is based on observations written on the Mr. Germ Head handout.
TIPS & SUGGESTIONS	

The teacher can have the students touch the potato to as many objects as possible.

For kindergarten students, instead of using the handout, the teacher can have a class discussion on the differences between the potatoes.

This lesson plan supports the following competencies of the Mississippi Science Framework for grades K-2:

Kindergarten Competency 4 - Investigate the different types of observable and measurable characteristics of matter.

First Grade Competency 8 - Examine the different types of observable and measurable changes that matter can undergo.

Second Grade Competency 8 - Examine the different types of observable and measurable changes that matter can undergo.

Science is integrated into the lesson plan by having the students observe and note the changes of the potatoes each day in class.

This lesson plan supports the Competency 4 of the Mississippi Language Arts Framework. Competency 4 - The student will use Standard English to communicate. Language Arts is integrated into the lesson plan by having the students write their findings each day after looking at their potato.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES [Mr Germ Head Hand Out
104-MrGermHeadHandOut.pdf](#)

What Are Germs?
www.kidshealth.org/kid/talk/qa/germs.html

Stop the Spread of Germs
www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/stopgerms.htm#StopGerms

That Explains It
www.coolquiz.com/trivia/explain/docs/germs.asp

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TRACKING # H-104 Mr. Germ Head