

Grades  
**K to 1**



**HERE**  
For Healthy Schools

**HANDWASHING**

# MAKE YOUR OWN SOAP

**THE BIG IDEA:**

Proper handwashing requires 20 seconds of lathering. This project helps make spending time with soap a fun activity, rather than a chore.

**HEALTHY HABITS**

Presented by Lysol® in collaboration with NEA and National PTA.

Education Standards: (NHES) Health: 1.2.1, 7.2.1, 7.2.2; (CCSS) Mathematics: K.G.B.5, 1.G.A.1, 1.G.A.2; (NAEA) Visual Arts: VA.K-4.1

## Goals and Skills

### Students Will:

- Learn and demonstrate the effective way to wash hands
- Understand why taking time is important when washing hands
- Experiment with textures and shapes
- Create three-dimensional sculptures

### Supplies and Preparation:

Set up at least four soap-making stations, each supplied with the following materials:

- One bag of soap flakes
- Water
- Container for mixing

## Instruction Steps

**1. Explain.** Begin by asking students why and when we wash our hands. Invite children to first share their ideas.

Explain that washing our hands with soap and water helps keep us healthy by removing germs that can make us sick. Washing hands takes time—as long as it takes to sing the ABCs. Why? Because that’s how long it takes germs to come off your hands.

**2. Washing Hands.** Time to practice how to wash our hands. First, go over how to wash hands, step by step, then have all students demonstrate their understanding of the steps.

- Paper plates
- Old pencils, pens, or other dull carving tools
- Tissue paper
- Ribbon
- Sink, soap, and towels for practicing handwashing
- Make enough copies of the Good, Clean Fun Coupons (Page 4) to send one home with each student

### Background for Teacher:

- You can also learn more about when and how to wash hands: <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>

### Teacher Note:

It is recommended that students have prior knowledge and understanding of shapes and the differences between circles, squares, triangles, half circles, trapezoids, etc.

- Wet hands with water.
- Add soap.
- Rub hands together to make bubbles.
- Don’t forget to scrub between fingers and under nails.
- Keep scrubbing for 20 seconds.
- Rinse well.
- Shake off and then dry with a towel or air dryer.

**3. Soap Sculptures!** In this next activity, students will practice their knowledge of geometric and three-dimensional shapes while cleaning their hands with soap. Divide the class into four groups. Designate one group at each soap-making station.

First, mix soap flakes with enough water to make the consistency of dough. Give each student a tennis ball-sized piece.

Assign different shapes to each group, such as triangles, circles/balls, squares/cubes, and trapezoids, for example. Have students identify their shapes and explain what makes them different than other shapes.

Once students have finished their sculptures, set them on paper plates to harden overnight. Make sure students label their plates so they can identify them later.

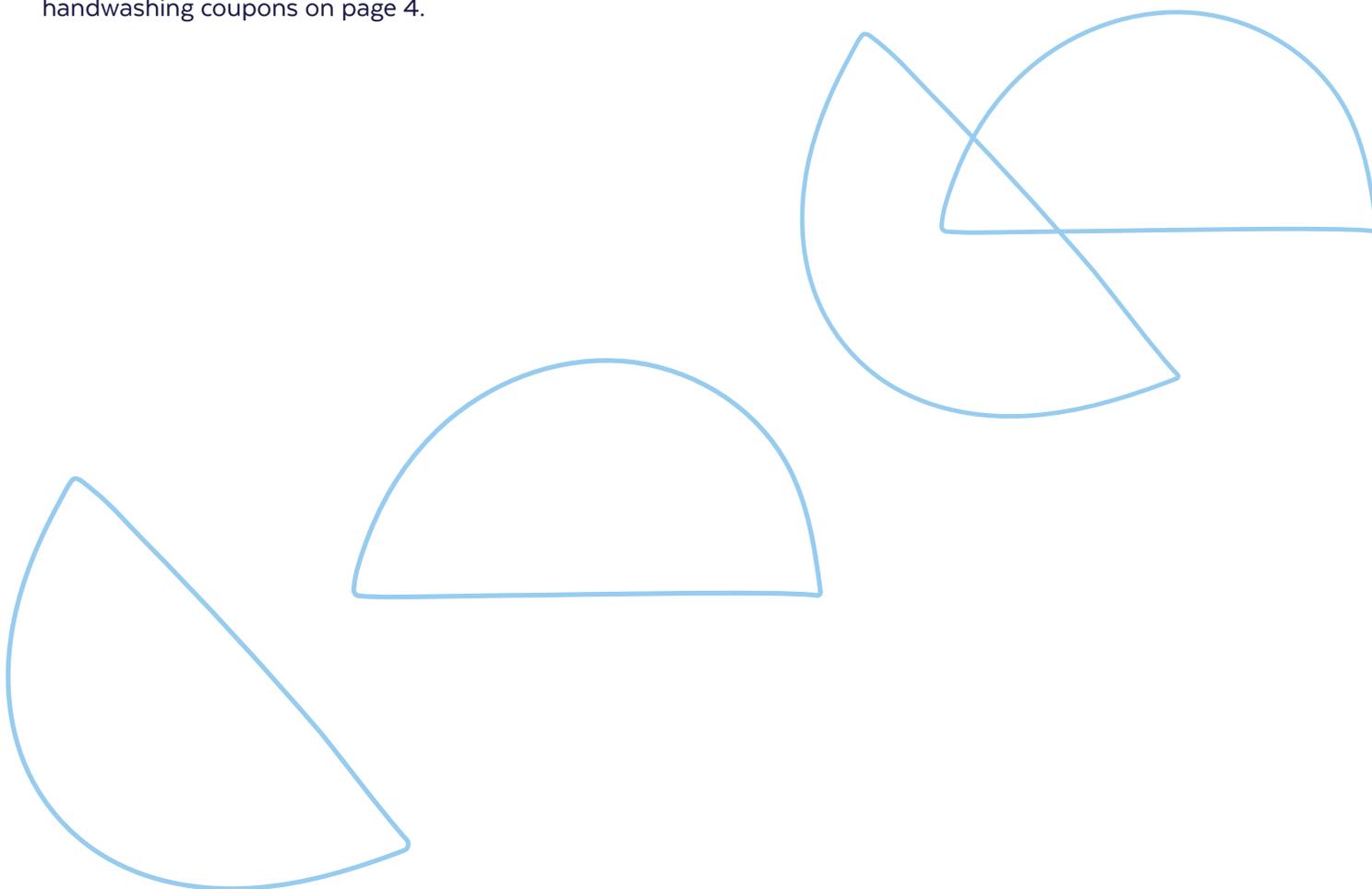
When the soap sculptures have hardened, have students carve their initials or patterns in the soap using dull pencils or pen lids. Wrap finished soap sculptures in tissue paper and tie them with a ribbon to take home so students can practice handwashing.

**4. Reflect.** As a reflection, review the handwashing steps with the class again. Have students share what they learned.

**5. Home Connection.** Send home copies of the handwashing coupons on page 4.

### Additional Resources:

- CDC - Be A Germ Stopper Poster  
<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/posters.html#stopgerms>
- CDC - BAM! Body and Mind  
<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/bam/teachers.htm>
- CDC - Healthy Schools Parent Engagement Materials  
<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/parentengagement/parentsforhealthyschools.htm>
- CDC - Handwashing Stickers  
<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/stickers.html>
- CDC - Handwashing Posters  
<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/posters.html>



**TEACHER TOOL**

Note for Parents:

**We had some good, clean fun today!**

We learned about healthy habits, like proper handwashing, at school. We even made our own soap sculptures! I learned that it's important to take lots of time to wash my hands right—as much time as it takes to sing my ABCs. I can use my soap sculpture to practice washing my hands the right way at home.

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