

STUDENT BRIEF

WORLDWIDE WASHING

BRONZE
AWARD

We all want to support people in the developing world but they often need to have solutions that work in their environment and with resources they can obtain locally. Some of our high tech solutions don't work because of the lack of availability of spare parts, specialist resources or the expertise needed to keep things running. Local solutions often work best for people because they can source everything they need and are able to maintain things for themselves. The right pieces of knowledge in the right place make people independent and able to help themselves.

DIRT DETECTIVES

Research project

Have you ever wondered... what causes people to become sick?

You may have been told to wash your hands frequently, particularly after going to the toilet or preparing food, but why? Surely a bit of dirt can't be that harmful can it? From your studies in history you will know that diseases in the past have affected whole populations.

Imagine you are a researcher working for the Institute of Microbiology and find out more about:

- What causes illness and disease?
- Can effective hand washing prevent some of these diseases?

Some things to think about...

- How do bacteria spread and infect many people?
- What happens when diseases get beyond our control?
- What can we do to stop them?
- What examples are there from history and from more recent times?
- Are people in other parts of the world more at risk than us?
- Why won't better hand washing help prevent the spread of diseases like malaria?

SOAP OR NOPE?

Practical project

Have you ever wondered...how effective different hand cleaning products and techniques are?

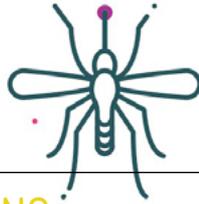
Manufacturers make all sorts of claims about the effectiveness of different products for hand cleaning and some can be very expensive. If effective hand washing is to be spread across the world we need some low cost solutions to make this a reality for everyone.

Imagine you are a scientist working on the transfer of bacteria. Carry out a practical experiment to:

- Decide if washing hands makes any difference
- Compare the effectiveness of different hand washing products and decide which is the most cost effective.

Some things to think about...

- How does water quality differ around the world?
- What will you look for to see if hand washing has made a difference?
- What are the different products you could test?
- Is soap as effective as more expensive products?
- How will you compare the differences these products make?
- What sorts of diseases might widespread hand washing help prevent?



CLEAN COMMUNICATIONS

Communication project

Have you ever wondered...how best to communicate important ideas about health and hygiene?

Helping people understand the importance of hand washing after going to the toilet starts with raising awareness among young children. Children also have a part to play in educating their families.

Imagine you work as a Communications Officer for a charity based in either the UK or Africa.

Prepare some teaching materials to help young people understand the issues themselves that they can pass onto their whole family. Use your communication skills to:

- Design accurate but fun and accessible materials children can learn from
- Devise ways of getting them to remember and tell others about what they have learnt

Some things to think about...

- Using a variety of techniques makes the key messages clear, simple to remember and accessible
- Sometimes songs, poems plays or cartoons can work better than written materials
- Think big and think small, you want reach as many people as possible
- Fun things are easy to remember even if the messages are serious
- You could try to find out about literacy levels in different parts of the world to judge how to make your materials accessible to everyone.



Useful Links

You may find some of the links below useful for your project:

www.bit.ly/40-shocking-facts-about-water
Interesting facts and statistics on water

www.unicef.org/wash/index_wes_related.html
Information about common water and sanitation-related diseases

www.youtube.com/watch?v=LCKsU4bPFOQ
Video on why Global Goal 6 is important in eradicating poverty

www.wateraid.org
Information about the challenges of water and sanitation

www.cdc.gov/handwashing/why-handwashing.html
Facts and figures on the importance of hand washing

Health and safety

If you carry out any experiments or practical activities then you will need to put together a risk assessment. To do this you will need to:

1. Find out if any of the substances, equipment or procedures you plan to use are hazardous
2. Assess the risk to yourself and others (which means what could go wrong and how serious that could be, low medium or high)
3. Decide what you need to do to reduce that risk e.g. wearing goggles or other protective equipment and knowing how to deal with any potential accidents

You will need to show your risk assessment to your teacher and get his/her approval before doing any practical activities.

Remember! Judges will be looking for projects that demonstrate good communication skills, show innovation and creativity and that address a real-world problem.

Use the Student Profile form to help structure your project www.crestawards.org