

WHERE DO GERMS GROW IN YOUR HOUSE?

The experiment called for gelatin, sugar and Petri dishes. We didn't have Petri dishes so used paper cups and covered them immediately with glad wrap in lieu of a cover.

- Boil 1/2 cup of water
- Add 2 tsp of sugar and 2 tsp of unflavored gelatin
- Stir until dissolved. Spoon into the cups (I had about 1 cm or 1/4 inch of gelatin in each cup.)
- Cover immediately with Glad wrap to keep it clean and as uncontaminated as possible.
- Chill for 24 hours



The next day: Label each cup. Then go around the house with cotton swabs and choose areas to collect germs. Take a swab of the area. Rub the swab gently on the top of the gelatin. We chose to swab the following: the **toilet**, a **door knob**, **nothing** (as a control), a **plant**, the **kitchen sink**, the **inside of my son's mouth**.



Set it aside in a dark, warm place for 5 or 6 days. I stuck mine under the sink in the guest bathroom. Then check to see which one wins!

The results really, really surprised me! So, of all the things we did what do you think had the most germ growth?

- the toilet,
- a door knob,
- nothing (as a control),
- a plant,
- the kitchen sink,
- the inside of LD's mouth

LD and ED thought the toilet would have the most germs.

DD thought the inside of the mouth would have the most germs.

Dad and I have seen shows and thought the kitchen sink would have the most germs.

And the winner was...



the plant!! (center pic) Followed by the



sink (top left) and door knob (top right)



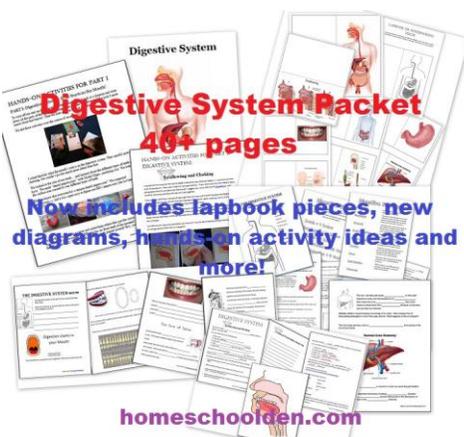
and the mouth, toilet and nothing coming in 4th, 5th and 6th places.

Other activities and materials available at homeschoolden.com:

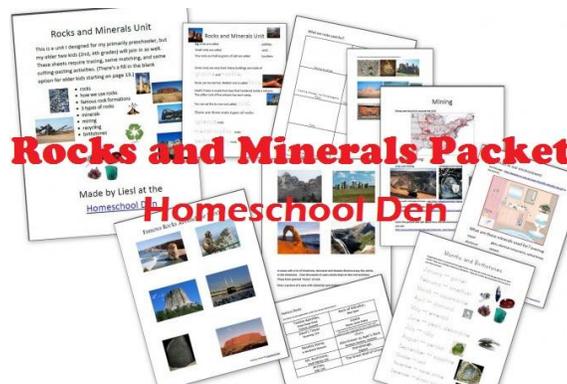
Simple Machines - Hands on activities on levers, wedges and more.



Digestive System - Hands on activities about digestion, the length of the digestive tract and more



Rock and Minerals - Hands on activities on the three types of rocks



Earth Science Unit: Hands on Activities about the layers of the Earth, plate tectonics, earthquakes, how to make a shake table, volcanoes, mountain formation and more!

