



GERM SURVEY

OBJECTIVE: Many people do not wash their hands before they handle food. This increases the chance of the transfer of microorganisms into the body. Students will create and distribute a survey on hand cleanliness and food handling. The results of the survey will be tabulated and published.

PROCEDURE:

1) As a class, students will brainstorm questions to place on a survey based on what they know about eating habits and cleanliness. A starter survey is presented here. These questions may be used, changed, or deleted and other questions should be added. Questions that can be answered with a “yes” or “no” are the easiest to tabulate.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT RESPONSE

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| 1. Do you always wash your hands before eating lunch at school? | YES | NO |
| 2. Do you always wash you hands before eating at home? | YES | NO |
| 3. Do you always use soap when you wash you hands? | YES | NO |
| 4. Do you wash fresh fruits and vegetables before you eat them? | YES | NO |
| 5. Do you drink milk after the “use by” date on the carton? | YES | NO |
| 6. Do you bite your fingernails/cuticles? | YES | NO |
| 7. Do you always wash you hands after using the restroom? | YES | NO |

How many people have touched the apple that you buy in the grocery store between the time it was harvested and the time you bought it?

2) Give the survey a title.

3) Determine when the survey is to be given and which classes will be included? Divide the class into groups and assign survey participants to each group.

4) Assignment for each class member: Research a statistical fact about food handling safety on the Internet. Hand in a printed copy of the page containing the fact and include the Internet address.

5) When the survey is completed, tabulate the results in percents and prepare a copy to be printed in the school paper and/or on the school web site. Include statistics gathered by the class that pertain to the survey results.

DISCUSSION

What did the results of the survey indicate?

How did the results of this survey compare to the researched facts?

What results surprised you?

What would make the results of the survey more valid?