

# BE A GERM DETECTIVE!

They're on the attack.  
They're always there.  
You may not be able to see them.  
But they're everywhere.

Who are these creepy creatures?



## ➔ Your Mission:

Uncover the secret hideouts of the germs, and then nab the germs before you pass them along to others.

## ➔ Go Undercover

Every day you come into contact with hidden germs. You can pick them up anywhere you go: in the bathroom, in the kitchen, at school. In this activity, you'll find out where and how often you encounter germs. Set aside one hour of your day, and be your own germ detective. Watch every move you make.

*Don't worry . . .* Most of the germs and bacteria you come across every day won't hurt you or make you sick. But some of them can. Remember, the best way to prevent illness from the germs you make contact with is to clean your hands often!



## ➔ Record Your Findings

- For one hour, record in your detective's notebook (below) where you go, what you do, and how much time you spend at each activity.
- Think about the many places you might pick up germs. For example, if you go to the bathroom at school, you might meet up with some germs on the bathroom door handle.
- Then jot down where you might have spread germs that you picked up.

## ➔ Your Detective Notebook

Where I Went / What I Did	Start and End Time (optional)	Possible Germ Encounters	Where the Germs Might Have Spread

## ➔ Crack the Case

1. How many possible germ encounters did you have in one hour? \_\_\_\_\_
2. *Estimate:* About how many possible germ encounters can you have during your whole day? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Were there times during your experiment when you could have stopped the spread of germs? \_\_\_\_\_  
How? \_\_\_\_\_
4. **Super Sleuth:** Find out: How does soap help get rid of germs? Write your answer on a separate piece of paper. (Hint: Check <http://www.cleaning101.com/cleaning/chemistry/Welcome.html> for an answer)

