



# KinderPrep Supplemental Sequence Activity

## Pepper Experiment

**Step 1:** Gather the supplies that you will need:

A shallow bowl or dish (a pie plate works well if you have one)

Water

Black pepper

Liquid dish soap in a small dish

**Step 2:** Cover the bottom of your shallow dish with water.

**Step 3:** Ask your child what they think will happen if they put pepper on the water. Sprinkle black pepper across the surface of the water. Notice how the surface tension of the water causes the pepper flakes to float.

**Step 4:** Ask what they think will happen if they stick their finger in the middle of the pepper. Then have them put their finger in the center of the dish; did anything happen? What do they think will happen if they put soap on their finger before they put it in the pepper? Now have them dip the tip of their finger into the liquid dish soap. Put that finger into the center of the dish. What happens?

**The Science Behind This Experiment:** When you add dish soap to the water it lowers the surface tension of the water. The water molecules try to stick together and move away from the soap while carrying the pepper with them! This also gives a great visual as to why they should use soap to wash their hands. You can talk about pepper being a representation for the germs on their hands and how the soap causes those germs to scatter.

**After conducting the experiment, cut out the cards below and have your child put them in the correct sequence while they explain what steps they had to do for the experiment.**

