

GERM EXPERIMENT

Carry out the following experiment:

Method

- a) Wash your hands, put gloves on, and then cut a potato in four equal pieces.
- b) Take the first potato piece and put it in one of the bags. Seal the bag. Use the marker to write on the masking tape and label this bag as 'control.'
- c) Pick a surface - such as a countertop, sink, or a floor - and while wearing the gloves, rub the second potato piece on it. Place the potato slice in a bag and label it with the surface it was rubbed on.
- d) Take the third potato piece outside and lay it in a flower bed, a puddle, or something similar. Place the potato slice in a bag and label it with the outside area it was placed in.
- e) Finally, touch the fourth potato piece all over with your bare hands. Place the potato slice in a bag and label it 'touched with hands.'
- f) Take all four bags and place them in a dark area at room temperature, like a closet or cupboard. Leave them there for a week. After the week has passed, pull the bags out and look at the potato pieces. (Don't take the potatoes out of the bags.) What do you see on the pieces? Which potato has the most growth on it? Which potato has the least? Why do you think this is?
- g) Pour a little bleach into each bag, seal the bags, and then throw them away.

