

Running Pepper

The Action Watch pepper “run” across the top of the water when soap is added to the water.

Grade Level
Grade 1 – Motion
Grade 2 – Air and Water
Grade 3 – Properties of Matter
Grade 7 – Force and Motion
Grade 9 – Fluids and Pressures

Materials
Large Container
Water
Pepper
Dishwashing Soap

Instructions Fill the container three quarters full of water. Sprinkle pepper over the surface of the water so that it is fully covered. Cover one finger with soap and put it in the water in the center of the container. The pepper should shoot out to the sides of the container.

Safety It is important for the students to know that the soap that you put on your finger is safe. It cannot be something that you should not get on your skin, for example, bleach. It would be a good idea to review with children chemical safety and danger signs that are on product labels.

Hints Ensure that the finger is heavily coated with soap.

Science Principle Water acts like it has a layer of skin on the top of it. The soap breaks that skin and pulls the pepper away to the sides of the glass.