25SCHOOLS

FREE LEARNING NOTES FOR ZAMBIA

GRADE 2 · TERM 2

Science

Household Chemicals

Lesson notes for learners · Competence-Based Curriculum

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At home we use many substances for cleaning, cooking and keeping clean. These are called household chemicals. Some help us when we use them well. Some can hurt us if we use them wrongly. Always ask an adult first.

AFTER THESE NOTES YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO

- Name some household chemicals
- Say what household chemicals are used for
- Say how chemicals can harm people and the environment
- Handle household chemicals safely

KEY WORDS

Household chemicals	Substances used at home, such as soap, salt, sugar, toothpaste, paraffin and detergents.
Safe	Not likely to hurt us when used correctly.
Harmful	Able to hurt us or the environment.

1 Chemicals at home

Soap, salt, sugar, toothpaste, paraffin and detergents are household chemicals. We also have bleach and cooking oil at home.

We use them for cleaning, cooking and keeping our bodies clean. Smell and touch them only where it is safe, and with an adult nearby.

Some chemicals are useful and safe when used correctly. Others can be harmful if misused.

Chemical	Used for
Soap	Cleaning
Salt and sugar	Cooking
Toothpaste	Keeping the body clean
Bleach and detergents	Cleaning

Figure 1. Household chemicals and their uses

2 How chemicals can harm

Chemicals can harm people. They can cause breathing problems and damage the skin. Some can cause death.

Chemicals can also pollute water, air and soil.

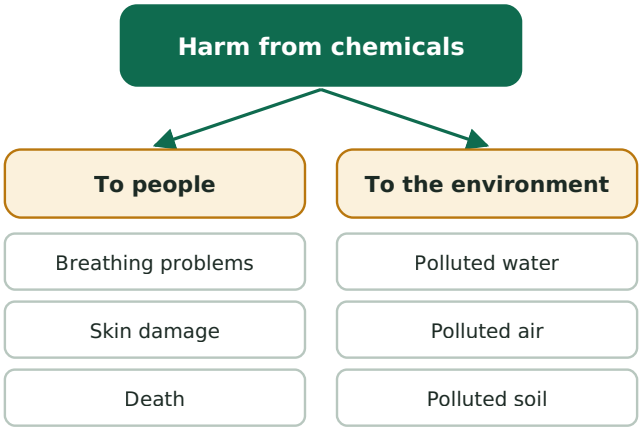


Figure 2. Harm from chemicals

3 Staying safe

Never taste unknown substances. Keep chemicals away from your mouth and eyes. Do not touch, smell or swallow a chemical without guidance.

Always ask an adult before using any household chemical. Ask an adult for help when a chemical is strong.

TRY THIS

Look at the soap and other containers at home with an adult. Say what each one is used for. Say one safety rule you will follow.

REMEMBER

- Household chemicals are substances used at home
- Soap, salt, sugar, toothpaste, paraffin and detergents are household chemicals
- Some chemicals can harm people and pollute water, air and soil
- Never taste unknown substances
- Always ask an adult before using a household chemical

? Check yourself

1. Name two household chemicals.
2. Name one way a chemical can harm a person.
3. What can chemicals pollute.
4. Who must we ask before using a household chemical.
5. Mwamba finds an old bottle at home with something in it and wants to taste it to see what it is. His sister stops him. (a) Should he taste it. (b) Why not. (c) What should he do.
6. Chanda is told to wash plates at home with a strong cleaner. Her mother is not around. She wants to use it. (a) Is the cleaner safe to use without help. (b) What can it do to her skin. (c) What should she do first.

ANSWERS

1. Any two of soap, salt, sugar, toothpaste, paraffin, bleach and detergents.
2. Breathing problems, skin damage or death.
3. Water, air and soil.
4. An adult.
5. (a) No. (b) It may be harmful. (c) Ask an adult for help.
6. (a) No, not without guidance. (b) It can damage the skin. (c) Ask an adult.

Written by 25Schools to follow the Grade 2 Science syllabus of the Zambian competence-based curriculum. Free for learners to read, download and share. More notes and quizzes at 25schools.com.