

# 3 Make citrus soap

Use chemistry to craft a gift for Mother's Day.



## What you need

- 300g soap base (available online)
- 10 drops of orange essential oil
- Zest of 1 orange
- Dried orange slices
- Chopping board
- Knife
- Jug
- Silicone mould

## How does it work?

You are probably told several times a day to wash your hands, but why is using soap so important? Everyone has microbes on their hands (see page 33). Most of them are good and keep your skin healthy, but others can make you unwell if they get into your body. These minuscule germs love the cracks and crannies in your skin and the natural oils that skin makes. Washing your hands in just water doesn't work as well – since water and oil don't mix, many germs are left behind after rinsing. Soap allows oil and water to mix. It also gets foamy, which makes it easy to move around your hands and fingers. While you rub soap around, it lifts up the invisible oil and its cargo of sticky bugs. Then, when you rinse it off under running water, the soap carries the invisible oil and germs away. Don't worry though, it doesn't take long for the microbes that keep your skin healthy to grow back again.

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**1** Ask a grown up to help you chop the soap base into cubes. Place the cubes into a jug and microwave for 10-second bursts. Stir until all of the base has melted.



**2** Add the essential oil and orange zest to the mixture and stir. If you like, you can also add lime zest for extra citrus aroma.



**3** Pour the mixture into moulds and top each one with a dried orange slice. Leave to set. It may take around four hours, depending on the depth of the mould.



**4** Once the soap has set firm, remove it from the moulds. To make a gift for Mother's Day (10 March), decorate with brown string, or wrap it in paper.