

# Straw Germs/Straw Seaweed

Great for ages 3-6

This craft is a two for one! On one hand, this can be a way for you to show your little one the need to properly cover up from a sneeze or a cough. By telling them that the lines of spreading paint are like germs, they can see how little things that everyone does can facilitate the spread of germs and viruses. This is especially useful in times like this!

On the other hand, you could use green paint and have your kids use the straw to make some green seaweed! They can use this to make a little aquarium at home, or they can use the paint and make weird looking animals!



## Materials Needed:

- Straws
- Paint
- paintbrush
- Water
- Cups
- Paper
- Gogly eyes (or ones made from paper, or a marker!)

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#### Steps: Germs and virus spread

- Start off by mixing the paint with some water in their cups, just enough to make the water change colour
- Put down your paper on a surface you don't mind getting paint on (just in case!)
- Using a paintbrush, dab some of the coloured water onto the paper
- Using the straw, have your child blow air through it to make the paint water spread out
- Do this with multiple colours until the paper is covered with paint splotches
- Add on the googly eyes or draw some one

#### Steps: Straw Sea Weed

- Same as above, mix the paint in some water cups to change the water colour
- Put down some green water on the bottom of the sheet and use the straw to blow it up, making it like wavy seaweed
- Use the other colours and try to use the straw to make some new ocean creatures! Try making a sea urchin or a puffer fish!

#### Tips:

- Younger kids might not be able to tell the difference between a bacteria and a virus, but this still helps show how they can spread!
- If you flip the paper vertically and blow the green paint all the way up, you can make a kelp forest! They are home to tons of animals that we love like sea otters! This can be another great way for your little ones to add on lots of their favourite ocean animals
- Depending on the paint you have at home, a good idea is to have this activity take place on an area where clean up is easy! Avoid carpets!

#### Sources:

Izumikawa, Laura. Video: <https://www.instagram.com/p/B94ZNDnF3iv/>

T, Sam. Web: <https://www.simpleeverydaymom.com/germ-blow-painting-art/>

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