Cleaning chemistry

Look at the label!

Now find out more about the ingredients in soaps and shower gels.

What you need
- Ingredients list from three different shower gels or soap bars
- Prices of the shower gels or soap bars
- Access to Cosmetic ingredients database
- Product analysis sheet.

What you do
1. Choose three products.
2. Put the name and cost of one of your products in the ‘Product name’ and ‘Cost’ columns.
3. Write down any claims made about the product, e.g. ‘Suitable for sensitive skins’.
4. Work out the cost per 100 ml – or look on the supermarket shelf.
5. Put the names of the first six ingredients after ‘aqua’ in the ‘Name of ingredient’ column.
6. Look up the ingredients in the Cosmetic ingredients database to find out what they do.
7. Repeat with the other products.

Questions
1. Why are all the ingredients needed?
2. Which products are suspensions, emulsions and solutions?
3. Which ingredients support the claims made about the products?
4. What are the differences between cheaper and more expensive products?
5. Would you think about changing to a different product now? Explain.
6. Do we need to use these products as often as we do? Explain.
7. How did people keep clean before these products were invented?