

COLOR WHILE YOU LEARN!

A water bottle in the Winterthur collection...



Q&A: Did grownups and kids who lived a long time ago have to wash their hands? Absolutely! Long before scientists first discovered germs in the mid-1800s, most people knew that you were more likely to stay healthy if you kept clean.

For thousands of years, recipes have been created to make solid soaps in different shapes and colors or in a range of liquids. Today, we turn on a faucet to get the water we use with soap when we wash our hands. In the old days, though, people didn't have running water in their homes. Instead, they filled water jugs or bottles, like this one, and then poured the water into a deep bowl, when they wanted a wash.

Learn more: This fascinating ceramic bottle was made in England around 1750. When it was new, it was left in plain white, but sometime in the early 1800s, it got a makeover. It was painted in colorful enamels, perhaps so it could replace a broken porcelain bottle from China. [Visit our online collections.](#)

Winterthur Museum, gift of Mr. and Mrs. John Mayer 1977.0093

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