

Passports: Adventures in Learning

The Human Body Series: The Five Senses

Curriculum Guide grades 3-6



Description of our Tour:

Most of us can name the five senses quickly and describe them too, but do you know the biological explanations of each? For example, hearing could not happen without hairs, sight occurs when electromagnetic waves are detected, and some people cannot taste! Join Maria Interlandi-Smith to learn how the senses really work.

Information for Trip Leader:

Lesson Outcomes:

The student will be introduced to the following concepts:

- The five senses of the human body
- How humans use their senses
- Activities and resources for teachers and students on the five senses

Activities:



Activity # 1: How Sweet it is

Have students chew on a saltine cracker. When students first begin to eat the cracker, ask them if it taste sweet. Tell students to let the chewed cracker sit in their mouth for a few minutes and then ask them if it taste sweet. As the cracker is digested in the mouth, the simple sugars are released. Explain to students that their taste buds are recognizing the sugar and sending a message to their brain that they are recognizing something sweet.

Activity # 2: How much pain can you stand?

This activity will test students threshold for pain but will not cause them any harm. Give each student a cup of soda or seltzer. Have students stick their tongues in the soda for as long as they can. See which student can last the longest. Explain to students that there are pain receptors in the tongue that can recognize pain. This is part of the sense of touch

Activity # 3: Which Sense?

Students complete a worksheet by matching the five senses to descriptive sentences.

Challenge Questions:

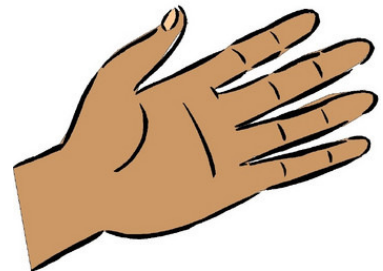
- 1. What are the five senses?*
- 2. Where are each of the five senses located?*
- 3. What part of the body, other than the tongue helps you to taste?*
- 4. Where are all of the messages about the body's senses received?*

Responses:

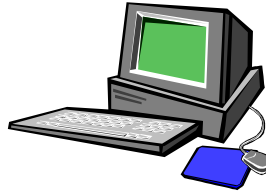
1. Eyesight, hearing, smell, touch, taste.
2. Eyesight: eyes / Hearing: ears / Taste: tongue / Smell: nose / Touch: whole body
3. The nose.
4. The brain.

Vocabulary Words:

- Senses: The ways in which humans perceive stimuli from outside the body.
- Eyesight: The act of seeing.
- Hearing: The act of perceiving sound.
- Smell: To perceive an order or scent through the nose.
- Touch: To feel something on the body, mostly with the fingers or hands.
- Taste: To test the flavor of something with the mouth.



Web Resources:



SIGHT

<http://yucky.kids.discovery.com/noflash/body/pg000142.html>

http://www.kidshealth.org/kid/body/eye_SW.html

SMELL

<http://yucky.kids.discovery.com/noflash/body/pg000150.html>

<http://www.howstuffworks.com/question139.htm>

http://www.kidshealth.org/kid/body/nose_SW.html

TOUCH

<http://sln.fi.edu/qa97/me10/me10.html>

HEARING

<http://sln.fi.edu/qa97/me10/me10.html>

TASTE

<http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/tasty.html>

Suggested Reading:

My Five Senses (Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science 1): Alikei (illustrator)

A Book About Your 5 Senses: Harriet Ziefert

Too Much Noise: Ann McGovern

Writing Prompts:

- I need my senses because...
- I think the most important sense is...
- My eyesight helps me by...
- What is your favorite smell and why?



Activity: Which Sense?

Directions: Read each sentence below and match the correct sense with the sentence. Write sight, hearing, smell, touch or taste below the sentence.

1. The sense that is found on the tongue.
2. The sense that uses the ears.
3. The sense that is used to recognize odors.
4. The sense that is used to recognize pain.
5. The sense that is used to recognize hot and cold.
6. The sense that perceives light.
7. The sense that perceives flavor.