

Title: Sniff n' Smell, Smell n' Sniff

Objective: Review the 5 senses; use the sense of smell

Time: 10 minutes

Materials Needed: approx. 14 *smelling jars*; cotton balls; blindfold; distinct odors such as: onion, peppermint, coffee, garlic, cinnamon, vanilla, cloves, etc.

Activity

Suggested Season: Any

Suggested Grade Level: 3-5

Indoors or Outdoors: Indoor

Theme: Observation

Topic: 5 Senses

Directions:

1. Using plastic spice bottles or baby food jars, put a distinct scent in each jar (see above for options). Helpful hints: Put a few cotton balls in each jar to prevent any spills. Label the bottom of each jar with the correct scent. Make 2 sets of smelling jars so each student is able to complete the activity in a timely manner.
2. Cover the jars with paper so that the students can not see what is inside.
3. Using only their sense of smell, have the students identify the scent that is in the jar.
4. When all students have finished, reveal the actual scent of each jar to the class.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do we need all of our five senses? How do they help us to know what is happening around us?
2. What sense do you use the most often? Least often?
3. Do you have a strong sense of smell? What might affect your sense of smell?

Variations:

- Make jars for the sense of touch and include items such as fur, egg shell, cotton, sandpaper, etc.
- Make jars using each of the following single ingredients: granulated sugar, salt, powdered sugar, flour, and cornstarch/baking soda. One jar at a time, have students make a guess about the content of each jar using the different senses. First sight, then touch, then smell, then taste. Talk about the significance of using more than one sense at a time to identify the contents of a jar.
- Discussion Questions: How accurate were the responses from the sense of touch alone? From the sense of sight alone?

Standards Addressed:

Science: 2.1.1.2.1.; 3.1.1.2.4.

Language Arts: K.I.B.; K.II.B.; K.III.A.; 1.III.A.; 1.III.B.1.; 2.III.A.; 3.III.A.2.; 5.III.A.1-2.

Math:

Social Studies:

Background Information:

- **Senses:** sight, smell, touch, taste and hearing

Additional Resources:

- *My Five Senses* by Margaret Miller
- *5 Senses* by Nuria Roca
- <http://freda.ayeung.net/5senses/>
This website includes information on the five senses.
- <http://library.thinkquest.org/3750/>
This website includes a Think Qwest titled Come to Your Senses. It talks about the five senses

Correlates with:

Greeting – Can You Hear Me?

News and Announcements – Sensory Details