



LESSON PLAN

THE SENSES GRADES K-2

SUMMARY

Students will understand that animals (including humans) gain knowledge about the world around them by the use of their senses. They learn that people have five senses: seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, and touching. Duration: 30 minutes.



ENGAGE

Take students on a short walk around the classroom, having them locate objects that have different sounds, smells, textures and shapes. Have them discuss their observations as you walk. Have them find different objects that fit different criteria:

- Who can find something red?
- Who can find something soft?
- Who can find something that makes a quiet sound?
- Who can find something in the shape of a circle?
- Who can find something that smells good?



EXPLORE

Have materials prepared to set up five sensory stations quickly or rotate materials to each table group.

Steps

1. Say: *What are our five senses?* (wait for student responses)

EXAMPLE MATERIALS

Touch

- (shells, rocks, sandpaper, feathers, cotton balls, bark, etc. in separate shoe boxes with a hole large enough for a child's hand)

Hearing

- (coins, pebbles, cotton balls, bells, baby rattles, etc. in containers you cannot see in)

Smell

- (cotton balls soaked in flavor extracts, banana, lemon, vanilla, etc - place them on aluminum foil with a label underneath)

Sight

- (magnifying glass, assorted shapes and colors of objects)

Taste*

- (gumdrops – lemon, lime, orange, cherry, licorice, etc.)

** Check medical records for allergies before letting ANY student taste the gumdrops.*

2. Say: *Today you will have an opportunity to explore with your five senses. You will discuss with your group what you will see, hear, smell, taste, touch or see. Normally, you would not taste items during an experiment, but in this lesson it is allowed. I will give you a piece of paper on which you will take notes of your predictions and draw pictures of what you observe at each of the five stations.* Quickly explain to the students what they are to do at each station.

3. When all students have rotated through all five stations, discuss what was actually at each station. Open up the boxes that were at the touch station and show the students what was inside. Open up the opaque containers at the hearing station and display the contents. Read the labels that were at the smelling station. Have the students describe the colors and shapes of the objects at the sight station. Have the students identify the flavors for each color of gumdrop.

DIY Activity (per group)

- 1 White cardstock, letter size
- 1 Paint brush
- 1 Teaspoon
- 1 Tablespoon
- 1 Cup of water
- 1 Bottle of white glue
- 4 Flavors of powdered drink mix
- 4 Disposable plastic cups
- 4 Stirring sticks
- Pencil



EXPLAIN

Tell the students they have used their five senses to explore the world around them. They used their hands to determine unknown objects through their sense of touch. They used their ears to determine unknown objects through their sense of hearing. They used their noses to determine unknown objects through their sense of smell. They used their eyes to give descriptions and draw objects through their sense of sight. They used their tongues to determine the flavor of gumdrops through their sense of taste.



WATCH THE GENERATION GENIUS SENSES VIDEO AS A GROUP

Then facilitate using the Discussion Questions.



ELABORATE

Relate the senses investigation to how animals survive in the wild. Prompt with questions such as, “How does a bear use its senses to find food?” or “What sense does an eagle use when it is fishing for salmon in a river?” Continue the discussion by asking students to think of other needs animals have besides food that they might need to use their senses for. Hopefully the conversation will lead towards protecting themselves from predators by listening carefully, or even using their sense of smell to identify predators. Students should realize that all animals have senses that help them survive.



EVALUATE

“Students can play the online Kahoot! quiz game located below the video which provides downloadable scores at the end of the quiz game. Alternatively, you can use the paper quiz or the exit ticket questions. All these resources are located below the video in the Assessment section.



EXTENSION

Take the students out to the playground with a pencil and notebook. Have them go on a scavenger hunt to draw an object they can smell, one they can see, one they can hear, etc. Bring the students back into the classroom and have them describe what they drew and identified using their senses.

Suggestions for science books on the five senses:

- *My Five Senses* by Alik
- *You Can't Smell a Flower with your Ear* by Joanna Cole
- *The Magic Schoolbus, Exploring the Senses* also by Joanna Cole
- *The Blind Men and the Elephant* by Karen Backstein

