

Overview:

Students do an activity using their senses to observe.

Objectives:

The student will describe the physical properties of objects.

Targeted Alaska Grade Level Expectations:

Science

- [3] SB1.1 The student demonstrates an understanding of the structure and properties of matter by classifying matter according to physical properties (i.e., color, size, shape, weight, texture, flexibility).
- [3] SA1.1 The student demonstrates an understanding of the processes of science by asking questions, predicting, observing, describing, measuring, classifying, making generalizations, inferring, and communicating.

Materials:

- *My Five Senses* by Aiki
- Various small items such as soap or fresh flowers; dense toys such as plastic animals, metal cars, balls with a variety of densities, fuzzy balls, bottle or jar lids, keys, coins, sea shells, cotton ball soaked in vanilla, peppermint or almond flavoring, small piece of chocolate or similar piece of candy, a piece of lemon, lime, or orange, a piece of apple, sandpaper, coffee granules, hot chocolate powder, etc
- Small boxes with a lid or covering so the student cannot see in it, they should be able to hold one of the items listed above
- Blindfolds (two or three)
- Science journal
- STUDENT WORKSHEET: "My Senses"

Activity Preparation:

Boxes should be made for the senses stations of touch, smell, sound, sight and taste. There should be several of each box created for a station. The station for touch could have a box with a seashell, one with a fuzzy ball, one with sandpaper and one with a metal car. The box should be big enough for a student to put their hand in and touch the item without seeing it. The station for smell could have a box with a vanilla cotton ball, one with a peppermint cotton ball, one with coffee granules, and one with hot chocolate powder. The one for sound could have a box with several coins, one with several keys, one with a ball, and one with a plastic toy. All of the boxes should be numbered and an answer key should be created. The station for sight should be several items with various features set out on a surface for students to observe. Each item should have a number on it. The taste station will be monitored by an adult and could have a piece of apple, lemon, orange and chocolate. Each item should have a number assigned to it.

Activity Procedure:

1. Read the book *My Five Senses* and discuss how the boy used his senses everyday. Review the chart on page 3 of the book. On the board list the five senses and draw a picture to go with each one.
2. Tell students they are going to do an investigation to observe with their five senses.
3. Divide students into small groups and ask them to rotate through the five senses stations. The touch, sight, sound, and smell stations can be done independently. Having an older student or adult at the station would be helpful. The taste station should have an adult who has several choices of items to taste such as chocolate, lemon, apple and orange. The items should be hidden from the student. A blindfold should be

put on each student as they visit the station before they taste one item. Show the student the item after they have tasted it and tell them the number assigned to it. Have students complete STUDENT WORKSHEET: "My Senses" as they rotate through the stations.

4. Bring students back together after they have rotated through all the stations. Share and compare their worksheets. Reveal the boxes and contents. Ask: What physical properties did items have at each station?
5. In their science journal students should write about what they learned about their senses.
6. Leave the mystery boxes at the classroom science center for students to do more investigations.

Extension Ideas:

1. Read the book *The Magic School Bus Explores the Senses* by Joanna Cole. Discuss the adventure that Ms. Frizzle and the students enjoy.
2. Have students think of other mystery boxes that could be created and invite another class to come and investigate the boxes and the ones used in the investigation above.

NAME: _____
WORKSHEET TITLE

STUDENT WORKSHEET

Station and Number	What I Observed
Touch	
Smell	
Taste	
Sight	
Sound	