



Five Senses

Grade: Kindergarten

Category: Life Science

Description: The student will investigate and understand that humans have senses that allow them to interact with their surroundings. They will learn about the five senses and corresponding sensing organs.

Learning objectives

- Discover the five senses: sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch.
- Learn about our sense organs: eyes, ears, nose, tongue and skin.
- Understand that we use our eyes to see.
- Understand that we use our nose to smell.
- Understand that we use our ear to hear.
- Understand that we use our tongue to taste.
- Understand that we use our skin to feel.

Key words: Senses, sense organs, hearing, sight, smell, touch, taste, eyes, nose, ears, tongue, skin.



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Engage (E1)

Purpose: To assess students' prior knowledge of our five senses and sense organs.

Background information for teachers:

We have five senses: we can see, hear, smell, taste and touch.

The senses are important because they help us interact with the world around us. We have five sense organs: eyes, ears, nose, tongue and skin. Each of our sense organs consists of cells that send messages to the brain. Our brain then translates these messages to tell us what we see, hear, smell, taste and feel.



Classroom Q&A

Take the students outside. Have them observe their surroundings using their senses of sight, smell, hearing, taste and touch. Ask these questions:

- How do we see? Have them observe the things around them, such as the colors of flowers, the different sizes of plants, leaves in different shapes, etc.
- How do we smell? Have them smell different things around them such as flowers, garbage can, etc.
- How do we hear? Ask them to listen to different sound around them such as bird singing, cars, etc.
- How do we feel things? Collect some rocks, leaves, and flowers. Ask them to touch the tree trunks and see how they feel.
- How do we taste? Ask them to eat their snacks and discuss if it's sweet, sour, salty, etc.
- Why do we need our five senses?
- What can we do with our senses?



Digital Activity

Login to Koantum and find the “Five Senses” lesson. Open the following page and have the students describe what each kid is doing. Ask these questions:

- This boy is standing next to the river. What is he doing? *He is hearing the sound of the water. He hears a frog too!*
- Which part of his body is he using to hear the sound? *He is using his ears to hear.*
- This girl has a magnifying glass. What is she doing? *She is seeing a ladybug through a magnifying glass.*
- Which part of her body is she using to see the ladybug? *She is using her eyes to see.*
- This boy has a yummy sandwich in his hand. What is he doing? *He is eating the sandwich.*
- Which part of his body is he using to taste the sandwich? *He is using his tongue to taste.*
- This boy loves his kitty. What is he doing? *He is feeling the kitty's soft fur.*
- Which part of his body is he using to touch the kitty? *He is using his hands. Explain to*

students that it is the skin on our hand that enables us to feel.

- This girl is standing next to the flowers. What is she doing? *She smells the flowers.*
- Which part of her body is she using to smell the flowers? *She is using her nose to smell.*



Explore (E2)

Purpose: To explore more about the five senses.

Background information for teachers:

Sense of Sight – We see with our eyes. Everything that our eyes see is sent to the brain for processing. The retina, which is the back surface of the eyeball, contains millions of cells that send information to the brain via the optic nerve. The images that are sent to the brain are actually upside down. The brain will then turn the images right side up and tell us what we are seeing.



Classroom Activity

Blindfold games

For the following activities, have either a blindfold or mask to cover children's eyes. These blindfold games will help children understand that their sense of sight is important, and what it's like without seeing.

Drawing and Writing Blindfolded

Give children a piece of paper or dry erase board. Have them either write their name blindfolded or draw a smiley face while blindfolded.

Walking Blindfolded with a Guide

Have a child put on a blindfold and walk around the classroom while holding on to a guide's arm. This activity can be done with the teacher guiding the children around the room, or you could have children partner up as long as you supervise them.

Build a Tower Blindfolded

Give children some wooden cubes or small blocks. Have them sit at the table and try to build a tower with all of the blocks without it falling over while wearing a blindfold. You may want to only give them 7-10 blocks.

Put One in Each Cup

Place an ice cube tray on the table and plenty pompom balls. As they wear a blindfold, have children attempt to place each pompom into each cup, so that each cup has only one.

Open Locks Blindfolded

Place a lock and key on a tray. First, let children explore the lock without a blindfold. Then, add the blindfold so children can attempt to pick up the lock, find the key, and open the lock, without their sense of sight.

After students have had a change to complete these tasks without the use of their sight ask the following questions:

1. Which task was most difficult?
2. Were you tempted to cheat and use your sight?



Digital Activity

Login to Koantum and find the “Five Senses” lesson. Open the following page and choose the “Sight” button on the left side. Ask these questions:

What kinds of things can we see with our eyes?

- We can see pictures in a frame.
- We can see lots of different colors. Red, orange, yellow, green, purple, and blue! What's your favorite color?
- We can see different shapes – like circle, square, rectangle, and triangle.
- We can see different sizes – like small, medium, and large.



Background information for teachers:

Sense of Touch – We use our hands to feel but it is our skin that gives us the sense of touch. The skin is the largest sense organ of our body. The nerve endings, also known as receptors, are located under the skin. These receptors give the brain information on what the body is in contact with. The main types of nerve endings are heat, cold pain and touch. Some parts of our bodies are more sensitive than others. This is because they have more receptors. For example, our tongue and fingertips are more sensitive than other parts of the body.

We can also feel if things are heavy or light. However, we cannot determine the exact weight of an object unless we weigh them with a scale.



Classroom Activity

Sense of Touch Mystery

Materials needed:

- 4 gift bags
- 4 different types of items with different textures; these can include: cotton ball, whiteboard eraser, a small rock, and a small stick.

Label the bags 1-4 and fill them with the various textured items. Give each table a bag. Have students take turns putting their hand in the bag and feeling what's inside. Then, have them make a prediction as to what they think the item is; have them record how the object felt and their guesses on the recording sheet. Then rotate the bags to the next table. At the end, collect

the bags. Have the students share their adjectives and what they thought was in each bag.

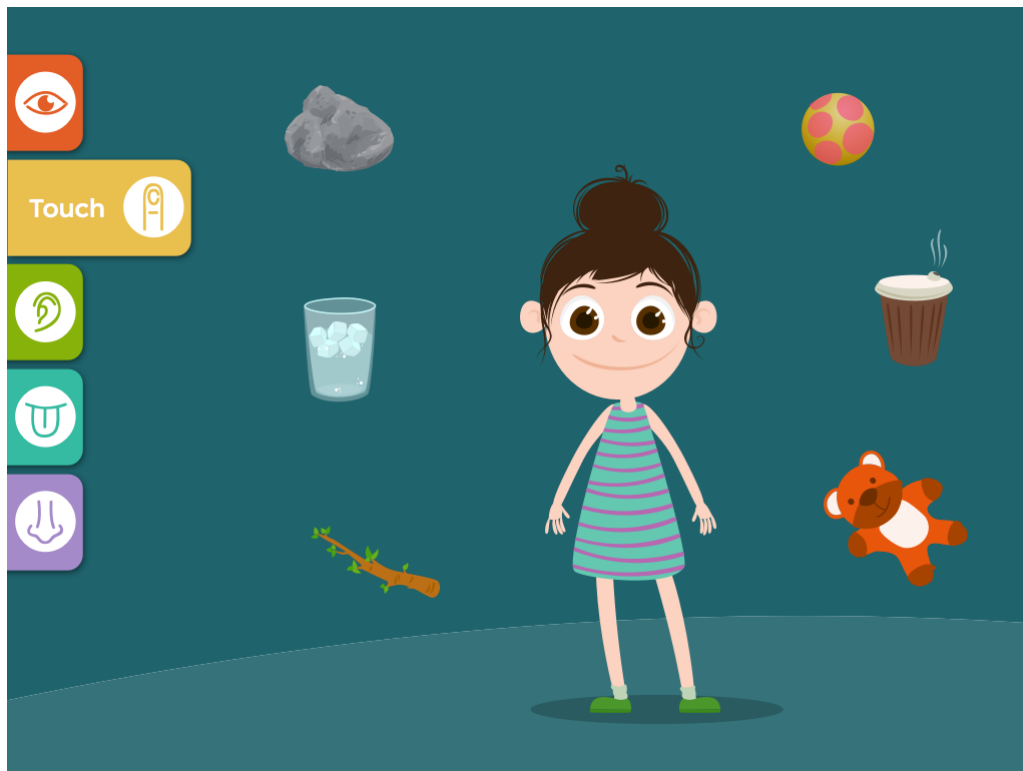


Digital Activity

Login to Koantum and find the "Five Senses" lesson. Open the following page and choose the "Touch" button on the left side. Ask these questions:

What kinds of things can we touch with our skin?

- How does a teddy bear feel? *A teddy bear feels soft.*
- How does coco feel? *This cocoa feels hot.*
- How does ice water feel? *This ice feels cold.*
- How does the tree branch feel? *The tree branch feels rough to touch.*
- How does the rock feel? *It feels hard to touch.*
- How does the ball feel? *The ball feels smooth to touch.*



Printable Activity

Have students complete the printable activity "Things You Can Touch" by circling the items they can touch.



Answer Key:

They can touch: *the ball, socks, magnet, snowman, flower, leaf, cell phone and pizza.*

They cannot touch: *fire, sun, moon and planet.*

Background information for teachers:

Sense of Hearing – We hear with our ears. When something makes a noise, it sends sound waves through the air. These vibrations move into our ears and hit the eardrums, which are deep inside our ears. The brain then receives signals from the eardrums and interprets the sounds we are hearing as loud, pleasant or unpleasant.



Classroom Activity

Exploring with Sound

Materials needed:

- 6 plastic Easter eggs
- Supplies to fill Easter eggs: marbles, raisins, coins, toothpicks, pasta, cereal

Fill 6 plastic Easter eggs with the supplies and have a sample of each supply on the table. Ask the students to shake, listen to each egg, and guess what's in them.

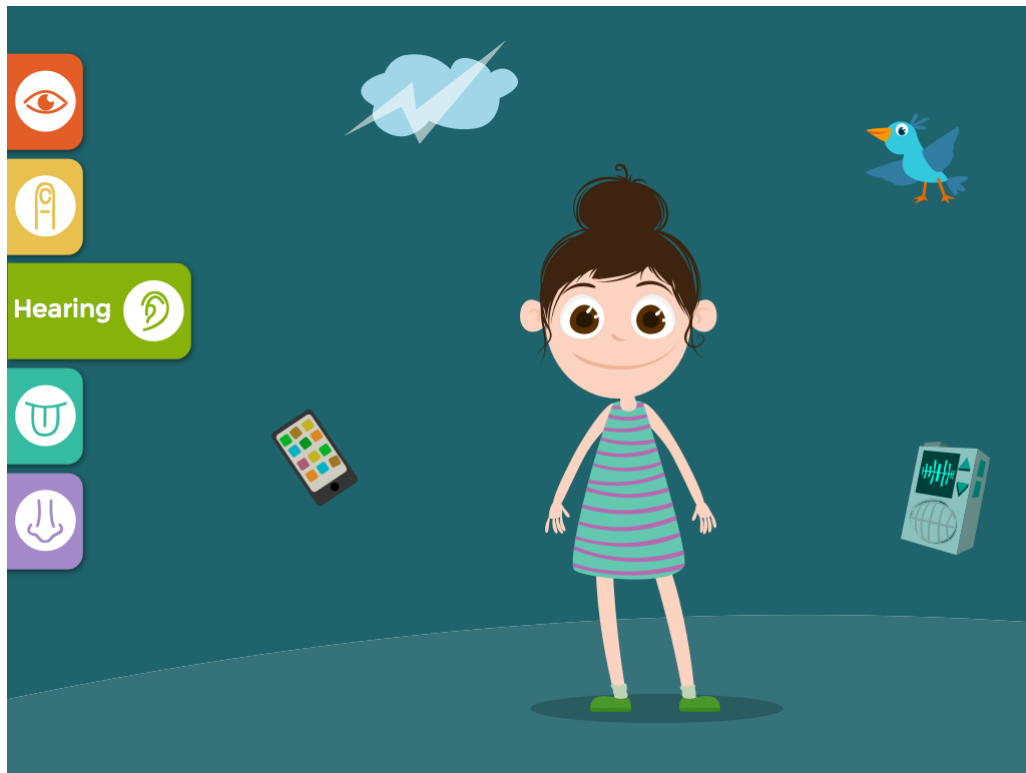


Digital Activity

Login to Koantum and find the “Five Senses” lesson. Open the following page and choose the “hearing” button on the left side. Ask these questions:

What kind of sounds can we hear?

- We hear music. Music is soft.
- We hear bird singing. It sounds soft and pleasant.
- The phone ringing is very loud!
- We can hear the rain and thunder. Sometimes it sounds scary!



Printable Activity

Have students complete the printable activity "Things You Can Hear" by circling the items they can hear.



Answer Key:

They can hear: *alarm clock, bird, car horn, bell, music, bee, violin, and cell phone.*

They cannot hear: *pasta, omelet, pencil and pizza.*

Background information for teachers:

Sense of Taste – We taste with our tongue. The little raised bumps on our tongue are the taste buds. Our taste buds can recognize different types of tastes like sweet, sour, salty, spicy and bitter. When we eat something, the saliva in our mouth breaks down the food. The cells in the taste buds will send the messages to our brain, which will tell us how the food taste like. Certain parts of the tongue are more sensitive to certain types of tastes.

Our senses of taste and smell work closely together. Our sense of smell affects our sense of taste. They help us to enjoy the food as we eat. When our nose smells the food, it sends a signal to the brain, which causes the salivary glands in our mouth to release saliva. Saliva helps to digest the food that we put in our mouth.



Classroom Activity

Senses Guessing Game

Material needed:

- 8 small plastic containers with lids
- 4 food items with distinctive smells (such as onions, coffee, peppermint, cinnamon, vanilla)
- 4 food items with distinctive tastes (sugar, salt, lemon, pretzels, grapes)

Put each item in a different plastic container and put the lids on the containers.

Have 4 students at a table and put the blindfold on. Remind them that there's no peeking! Put the 4 food containers with distinctive smells in front of them and take off the lids. Ask them to smell it and see if they can guess what it is. After they guessed, have them take off the blindfold and see if they were right.

Tell them that you are now going to use your sense of taste to play the game. Have them put the blindfold back on and put the 4 food containers to taste in front of them.

Have them take a small taste and guess what it is. After they guessed, have them take off the blindfold to see if they guessed correctly.

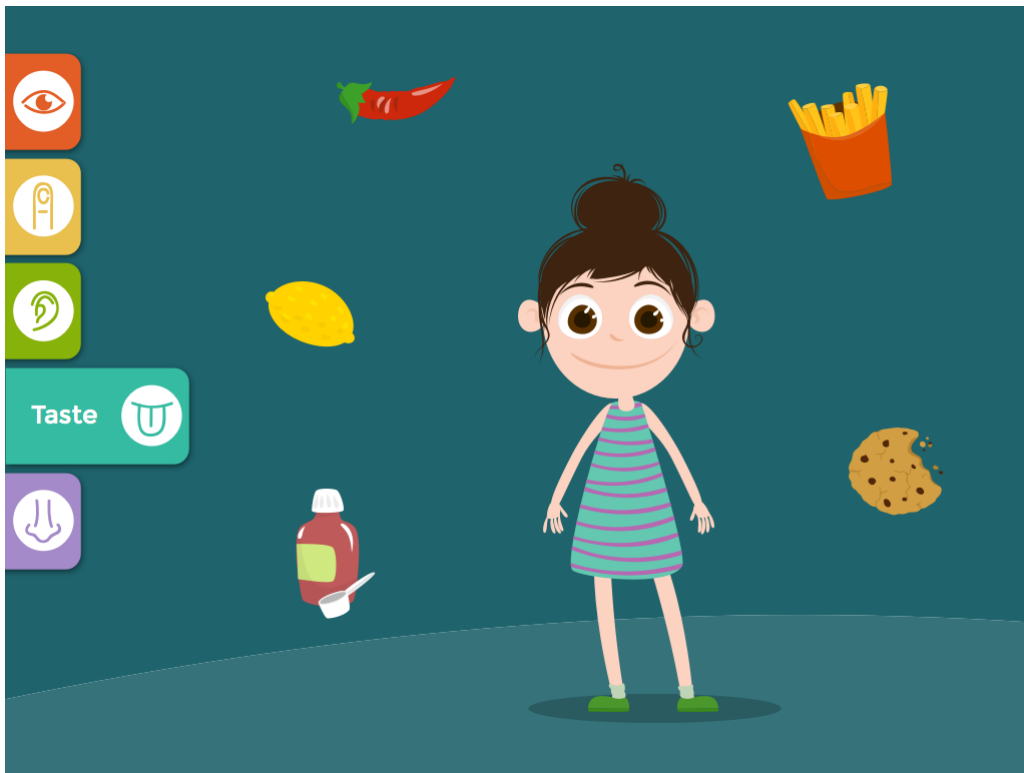


Digital Activity

Login to Koantum and find the “Five Senses” lesson. Open the following page and choose the “taste” button on the left side. Ask these questions:

What kinds of things can we taste?

- How does cookie taste? *It tastes sweet.*
- How do fries taste? *The fries taste salty. They make us thirsty!*
- How does a chili pepper taste? *A chili pepper is very spicy.*
- How does lemon taste? *The lemon tastes very sour.*
- How does medicine taste? *Some medicines taste bitter.*



Printable Activity

Have students complete the printable activity "Things You Can Taste" by circling the items they can taste.



Answer Key:

They can taste: *apple, pasta, omelet, fries, milk and pizza.*

They cannot taste: *bird, beach ball, sun, pencil, bee and spray.*

Background information for teachers:

Sense of Smell – We smell with our nose. Our nose can detect hundreds of different types of smell. These smells are actually tiny odor particles that our eyes cannot see. These odor particles will pass through our nostrils and reach the nerve cells, which we send the signals to the brain. The brain in turn interprets what we smell.

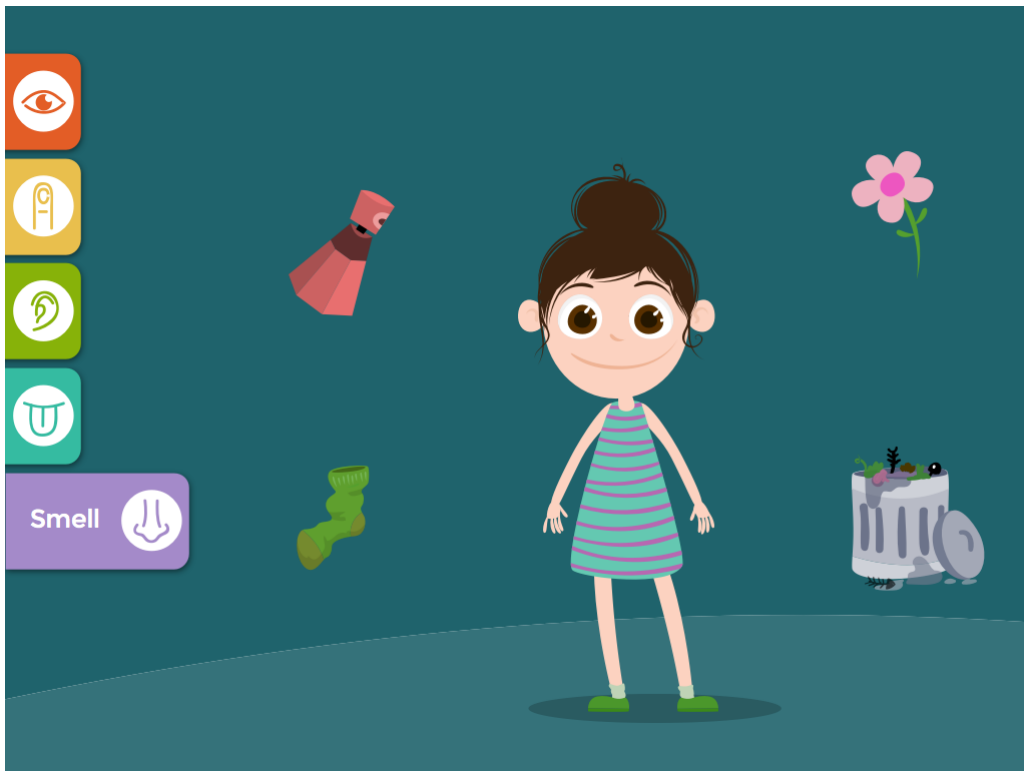


Digital Activity

Login to Koantum and find the “Five Senses” lesson. Open the following page and choose the “smell” button on the left side. Ask these questions:

What kinds of things can we smell?

- How does the garbage smell? *The garbage is stinky! It smells bad.*
- How does the flower smell? *The flower smells really good.*
- How does the perfume smell? *That perfume smells flowery and sweet.*
- How does the stinky sock smell? *The stinky sock does not smell good.*



Printable Activity

Have students complete the printable activity "Things You Can Smell" by circling the items they can smell.



Answer Key:

They can smell: *pasta, flower, garbage, burning and spray.*



They cannot smell: *moon, bird, sun, color palette, beach ball and tree.*



Explain (E3)



Digital Activity

Login to Koantum and find the “Five Senses” lesson. Open the following page and go over the slides to make sure they understand the subject.

The screenshot shows a digital activity page with a central cartoon boy. On the left, under the heading "Five Senses", there are five buttons: "Sight" (pink), "Smell" (yellow), "Hearing" (teal), "Taste" (blue), and "Touch" (purple). On the right, under the heading "Sense Organs", there are five icons: an eye, a nose, an ear, a tongue, and a hand. The page is designed to look like a spiral-bound notebook with colorful tabs at the bottom.

1. We have 5 senses. Sight, smell, hearing, taste and touch. We use different parts of our body to sense the world. We call them sense organs. Our sense organs include eyes, nose, ears, tongue and skin.
2. We use our tongue to taste. We have taste buds on our tongue. The taste buds sense different flavors and tastes like sweet, sour, salty, spicy, and bitter. Encourage students to give examples of sweet, sour, salty, spicy, and bitter foods.
3. We use our eyes to see. We can see different colors, shapes, and sizes. We can also see things close to us, or far away. Some people cannot see very well. They may need to wear glasses. What colors can your eyes see? What shapes can your eyes see?
4. We use our nose to smell things. We can identify many different kinds of smells. Some are sweet, flowery, or clean. Some smell bad, nasty and unpleasant. What smells nice to you? What does not smell nice to you? Encourage students to give examples of pleasant and unpleasant smells.
5. We use our ears to hear. Some sounds are soft. Some sounds are loud! What are the sounds you hear every day? Are they loud or soft? Ask students to give 3 examples of soft and loud sounds.
6. We usually use our hands to feel things. We have skin on our hands so we can feel the texture of things. Things we touch can be smooth or rough, hard or soft, hot or cold. Encourage students to give examples of soft, hard, rough, smooth, hot and cold things.

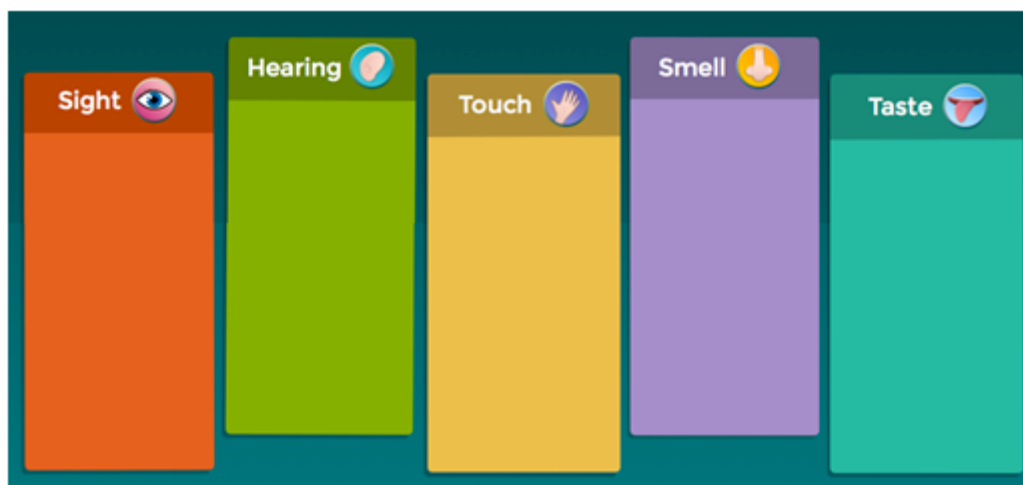
Elaborate (E4)

Purpose: To observe and classify things using our five senses.



Digital Activity

Login to Koantum and find the “Five Senses” lesson. Open the following page and let the students complete the activity.



Answers:

- Sight box: *clouds, color palette, moon and stars, rainbow colors*
- Hearing box: *headphone, clapping hands, bird singing, bell, cell phone*
- Touch box: *red button, teddy bear, dog, blanket*
- Smell box: *smell flower, spray, garbage, perfume*
- Taste box: *spaghetti, pizza, banana, cookie, apple*



Printable Activity

Have students complete the printable activity "Sense Organs 1" by matching the correct sense organ to the items in each row.

Answer Key:

- Cupcake, ice cream, orange juice: *Tongue*
 Bell, music, cellphone: *Ears*
 Planets, sun, moon: *Eyes*
 Flower, garbage, spray: *Nose*
 Teddy bear, blanket, branch: *Hand (or skin)*



Printable Activity

Have students complete the printable activity "Sense Organs 2" by selecting the item in each row that doesn't match the sense organ.

Answer Key:

- Row1: We cannot hear fish voice.
 Row2: The blindfolded boy can't see.
 Row3: We cannot eat the kite.
 Row4: We cannot touch the sun.
 Row5: We cannot smell the bed.



Printable Activity

Have students complete the printable activity "Sense Organs 3" by selecting the senses you use with each object.

					
	✓		✓	✓	✓
	✓	✓		✓	
	✓			✓	
	✓		✓	✓	
	✓			✓	

Answer Key:

Bell: *Sight, hearing and touch*

Teddy bear: *Sight and touch*

Flower: *Sight, smell and touch*

Sun: *Sight*

Tree branch: *Sight and touch*



Video

The Five Senses

The Dr. Binocs Show, Learn Series For Kids

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q1xNuU7gaAQ>



Fun Facts

1. Dogs can smell things up to 40 feet underground!
2. The average person has 10,000 taste buds on their tongue. They are replaced every 2 weeks.
3. Your skin is your body's largest organ.
4. An eagle in flight can see a rabbit two miles away!
5. It's no surprise really, with ears that big, that the elephant have excellent hearing! They can hear at a frequency 20 times lower than us.

Evaluate (E5)

Purpose: To assess students' understanding of the lesson.

1 - Which of these is not one of the five senses?

- a) taste
- b) smell
- c) **thinking**
- d) touch

2- When you watch TV, which senses are you using?

- a) taste and touch
- b) **sight and hearing**
- c) smell and sight
- d) hearing and taste

3- Which part of the body senses taste?

- a) **tongue**
- b) hands
- c) skin
- d) ears

4- Your skin senses _____.

- a) sound
- b) smell
- c) **touch**
- d) taste

5- Which of these does not have five senses?

- a) a bird
- b) a cat
- c) a person
- d) **a tree**

6- How many senses do we have?

- a) 8
- b) 7
- c) **5**
- d) 9

7- Which sense organ do we use to touch?

- a) Nose
- b) Tongue
- c) **Hands**
- d) Ears

8- I can _____ the ice cream with my tongue.

- a) feel
- b) **taste**
- c) see
- d) touch

9- I can _____ many colors with my eyes.

- a) taste
- b) hear
- c) **see**
- d) feel

10- I can _____ the flowers with my nose.

- a) see
- b) **smell**
- c) touch
- d) taste