

**Project FOCUS
Best Lessons
KINDERGARTEN**

Title of Lesson: Using Your Senses

Theme: Physical Science

Unit Number: 1 **Unit Title:** Physical Properties of Matter

Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter codes):

SKP1

Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):

Habits of Mind

- Asks questions
- Uses numbers to quantify
- Works in a group
- Uses tools to measure and view
- Looks at how parts of things are needed
- Describes and compares using physical attributes
- Observes using senses
- Draws and describes observations

Content (key terms and topics covered):

The five senses (taste, smell, sight, hearing, touch)

Learning Activity (Description in Steps)

Abstract (limit 100 characters): This lesson explains each of the five senses and matches each sense to the correct sense organ.

Details: Before coming to class, fill three small paper bags with each of the following (only one type of item per bag); rocks, sticks, and leaves. Also, number each bag (1, 2, and 3). Cut the apple and banana into small pieces, and place the apple pieces, banana pieces, and marshmallows into separate ziploc bags. Begin the lesson by explaining each of the five senses. As you explain each sense, ask the students to point to the part of their body (the sense organ) that matches each sense. Also explain that although the sense of sight is arguably our most important sense, this lesson will show how we use our other four senses when sight is not available. Begin the hands-on portion of the lesson by setting the numbered bags of rocks, sticks, and leaves on a table. One by one, have the students feel inside of each bag (without looking inside) and write down their guess of what items are inside each bag. After this, make the students close their eyes while you hit the rocks together, break the sticks, and crumble the leaves. Tell the students to look at their guesses that they already wrote down and assess whether or not their first predictions were correct. Reveal which bags contained which items and explain the importance of using different senses together. Next, call a student to the front of the class, blindfold the student, and allow him or her to smell and guess the identities of the cinnamon, garlic, and pepper. Repeat this with as many students as you feel appropriate for the class size. As a final exercise, use the blindfolding technique to allow students to guess the identities of the marshmallows, apples, and bananas through the sense of taste. Finish the

lesson by repeating the exercise of calling out the senses and having the students point to their body part that matches each sense.

Materials Needed (Type and Quantity):

1 apple (cut into small pieces)
1 banana (cut into small pieces)
1 bag of small marshmallows
several sticks
several dead leaves
several medium-sized rocks
1 container of cinnamon
1 container of pepper
1 container of garlic
3 paper bags
3 ziploc bags
1 blindfold

Notes and Tips (suggested changes, alternative methods, cautions):

I did this with a group of ten students, and I believe it works best in a group this size or smaller. In a larger group, you might divide the students into four groups and allow each group to participate in the guessing involved with one sense (for example- group one does touch, group two does smell, etc). The main safety concern is to make sure no students are allergic to any of the materials before class. In doing the lesson again, I would make sure I had DEAD leaves and "real" rocks (not dirt clods that look like rocks). Leaves from a tree and dirt clods don't work well for the hearing portion.

Sources/References:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)