

# Walk for the Senses

GRADES: K-2

## Key Words and Definitions

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**SENSE** : one of the five ways in which the human body experiences the world; smell, sight, hearing, taste and touch.

**TEXTURE** : the way something feels to the sense of touch.

**OBSERVATION** : the act of careful looking, listening, smelling etc.

*Look for keywords—**BOLDED**—throughout this lesson extension!*

## Activity 1: Observational Drawings

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*One approximately 20-minute session; pre- or post-visit*

### LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Students will sharpen their observational skills by drawing a detailed sketch of a nature object.

### MATERIALS

- Paper
- Nature objects (rocks, leaves, feathers, etc.)
- Pencils
- Crayons or markers

### PROCEDURE

Explain to your students that we rely heavily on our **SENSE** of sight to understand the world around us. Tell them that the act of close looking is called **OBSERVING**. Both scientists and artists often use observation to get to know nature. Tell students that they will have the opportunity to become scientists and artists by making observational drawings of things found in nature. Give students a chance to explore the nature objects you have assembled.



Using a pencil and paper, encourage students to choose an object that interests them and try to draw it with as much detail as possible. Instruct students to focus on **TEXTURES** and details they find interesting. For an added challenge, students can create their observational drawings using a single continuous line.

After drawing, have students add more detail to their observational drawings using colored markers or crayons.

Students can then share out their observational drawings to the rest of the class. Alternatively, you can facilitate a gallery walk, where students leave their drawings on their desks and walk around the room to look at their classmates' work. Lead a discussion to consider which objects and artworks stand out to students and why.

## SOURCES

"The Five Senses | The Dr. Binocs Show | Educational Videos For Kids." *YouTube*, Peekaboo Kidz, 29 Apr. 2015, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q1xNuU7gaAQ&feature=youtu.be>

"How Your Eyes Work." *YouTube*, KidsHealth.org, 22 Aug. 2013, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=syaQgmxb5io&feature=youtu.be>

## Activity 2: Scent Matching Game

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*One approximately 20-minute session; pre- or post-visit*

### LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Students will test their sense of smell to associate common scents with their sources.

### MATERIALS

- Small containers
- Essential oils or spices (lavender, cinnamon, lemon, coffee grounds)
- Cotton balls
- Pictures that correspond to smells

### PROCEDURE

Before class, put a few drops of the essential oils or spices on different cotton balls and place each cotton ball in a different container. If you are using spices, it is best to cover the containers so that the students cannot determine the spice based on what they see inside the bottle.



Share with students that many of the common scents they smell at home come from nature—specifically plants! Ask students if they can name any plants that have a pleasing smell or that they can find in their homes. Direct them to consider the spices in their kitchens as well as houseplants. Then, tell them it is time for a scent matching challenge!

Divide the class into small groups, and provide them with one scent and pictures of all the scents that you put into the containers. Ask students to predict which picture the scent matches by using their sense of smell. Rotate through all the scents until students have correctly matched them all.

Stress again that every single one of these spices are plants that come from nature. Celebrate how amazing this is!

NOTE: If students are unfamiliar with these aromas, introduce the new scents before the activity so that they can successfully match the fragrances to the pictures.

## SOURCES

Evans, Shaunna. "Fun Ideas for Exploring the Sense of Smell." *Fantastic Fun & Learning*, 15 June 2017, <https://www.fantasticfunandlearning.com/fun-ideas-for-exploring-the-sense-of-smell.html>

"How Your Nose Works." *YouTube*, KidsHealth.org, 22 Aug. 2013, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hzOSzX\\_HXE4&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hzOSzX_HXE4&feature=youtu.be)

## Activity 3: Listening Scavenger Hunt

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*One approximately 20-minute session; pre- or post-visit*

### LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Students will make predictions about the soundscape of their community. They will practice active, close listening to confirm or refute their predictions.

### MATERIALS

- Pencils
- Markers
- Grid



## PROCEDURE

Print a grid with three columns and four rows for each student. Tell students that in a moment you will be taking a walk to do some careful listening. Ask students to fill the sheet with predictions for sounds that they may encounter on the walk. Then, lead a walk through your school or outdoors.

As they walk, have students mark off any sounds they hear from their sheets. If sights are too distracting, have the class sit class down, and tell your students to close their eyes so that they can focus on the sounds around them.

Once back in the classroom, ask: Did you hear what you predicted you would hear? Were there any surprising or strange sounds?

## SOURCES

"How Your Ears Work." *YouTube*, KidsHealth.org, 22 Aug. 2013, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMxoHKwWmU8&feature=youtu.be>

## Activity 4: Texture Book

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*One approximately 20-minute session; pre- or post-visit*

## LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Students will activate their sense of touch via a creative exploration of textured materials.

## MATERIALS

- Paper
- Stapler
- Varied fabric (fleece, burlap, corduroy, felt, silk, satin, lace, cotton, etc.)
- Variety of other textured materials (bubble wrap, sandpaper, foil, etc.)
- Glue
- Markers

## PROCEDURE

Locate an assortment of **TEXTURES** from the materials listed and place them onto a work surface so students can select from plenty of options. Encourage students to set aside a variety of textures that they like. Next, have students glue each kind of texture material onto a different piece of paper.



Once these have dried, ask students to touch each texture, and write next to each material a description of how each fabric feels.

Stack the pieces of paper on top of one another and staple them together to create a texture book for each student.

## SOURCES

"How Your Skin Works." *YouTube*, KidsHealth.org, 22 Aug. 2013, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aMGgCxUyXT8>

