

Learning about Sense of Smell

Adventure Description:

In this adventure, students will think like an ears, nose, and throat doctor (ENT doctor) and learn about the nose and sense of smell.

Activity

Step 1: Background on Ears, Nose, and Throat Doctors (5 minutes)

- Ask students if they have ever heard of an ears, nose, and throat doctor.
- Explain to students that ears, nose, and throat doctors are special types of doctors who know all about ears, nose, and throats. They are usually called ENT doctors as a nickname. Show Handout: ENT Doctors.
- Discuss how ENT doctors know all about ears, nose, and throats and help people who may have problems with these body parts.
- Explain that ENTs know a lot about noses and our sense of smell!
- As a class, brainstorm how the nose works. How does the nose smell something? What is inside your nose?
- Show Handout: Information on Noses.
- Discuss how the nose works and the different parts of the nose (including nose hairs!). If you have mirrors available, have explorers look up into their nose to see their nose hairs.

Step 2: Building a Model of a Nose (15 minutes)

- Explain to students that they will be building their own nose! Provide students with Handout: Steps to Build a Nose. As a class, read through the steps.
- Provide students with art and building supplies to build their nose. Students can work in pairs or individually.

Please contact Allison Bischoff, Director of Teacher Support, at allison@rozzylearningcompany.com or 314-272-2560 with questions.



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Step 3: Experiment to Sense of Smell (10-15 minutes)

- Explain to students that they will now put their own nose to work and smell different items.
- Show Handout: Understanding Sense of Smell. As a class, discuss how our brain and nose talk to each other. The nose sends a smell to the brain and the brain decides if we know what the smell is or if we don't.
- Divide students into pairs.
 - Note: Check for any allergies first in class. Do not have students smell items if they are allergic.
- Use Handout: Experiment to Smell Items to walk students through the experiment. Explain that partner 1 will close their eyes. Partner 2 will grab bag A. Partner 2 will pull out one item at a time and hold it out for partner 1 to smell. Partner 1 will keep their eyes closed and guess what they are smelling.
- Next, the partners will switch roles, this time using bag B.
- Follow steps on handout until all students have had a chance being the person who smells and the helper.
- Ask students if they knew what every item was when they smelled it?
- Explain that if you didn't know what an item was, it is probably because you haven't smelled it before. If you haven't smelled it before, your brain and nose haven't talked about the smell yet!

Materials List

Provided online:

- Handout: ENT Doctors
- Handout: Information on Noses
- Handout: Steps to Build a Nose
- Handout: Understanding Sense of Smell
- Handout: Experiment to Smell Items

Not provided (each student or group needs):

- Art supplies and building materials
- 2 brown paper bags labeled "A"and "B"
 - Bag "A" needs: orange peel in a baggie, herb in a baggie
 (like mint or oregano), cinnamon in a baggie
 - Bag "B" needs: 1/2 lemon in baggie, chocolate chip, herb in a baggie (like mint or oregano)

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