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Demo: Spud Senses

Post-Visit Activities

Grades pre K-1

Developed September 2007



These activities are intended for use after your visit to the Virginia Air and Space Center. Your students should recall the information, demonstration, and activities from the Spud Senses program in order to do these activities. All of the activities can be tailored to your specific classroom needs, and the procedures listed are just suggestions for teaching.

Activity 1: Smell

Materials- For this activity you will need a blindfold and access to the children's packed lunches. You will also want to have a few food items on hand as well, those that are easily identifiable by smell. For example: orange, cinnamon, chocolate, popcorn, bubblegum, onion, etc.

For this activity you will want to make sure that you have hidden the items out of sight where the students can't see them. Have five or six of your students put on blindfolds. If they have packed lunches, see if they can identify some of the items in their lunch using their sense of smell. Also try some of the items you have brought. See if they can identify each smell. Give each of your students a chance to try the activity. Then discuss smell, and why and how it is important to us. How much do we use our noses to smell? Are smells always good? Also share with them the effects smells have on our taste buds.

Extension: You can also pick a different smell to place in your classroom each day to see if they notice it and/or can identify the smell. Use air fresheners (not the spray kind), dryer sheets, cloves, etc. and see if they notice them. Another thing that is fun to try is to

soak the corners of their worksheets in vanilla or lemon. For some of these items you will want to make sure that your students are not allergic or sensitive to the products.

Activity 2: Taste

Materials- For this activity you will need a variety of foods and a blindfold. Use healthy foods like apples (red and green), bananas, oranges, grapes, carrots, celery, and lemon. Obviously you will need to check for food allergies.

Have four or five of your students put on a blindfold. Give each of them a different food. See if they can identify the food and color of the food just by taste. Have each of them describe the taste. Was it sweet, sour, or bitter? Lemon is always fun but it is a good example of bitter and sour. Once each student has had a chance to try this activity, ask them how they were able to identify the food. Was it easier to identify some more than others? Did they all taste good? Why? Will everyone like certain items and not others? Does everyone have the same likes and dislikes when it comes to taste? Why is taste important to us and how often do we use it?

Extension: Encourage your students to try this activity at home with their family. Have them share their experiences with the rest of the class.

RESOURCES

Websites

<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/nibbles/succeed-senses.html>

<http://www.atozkidsstuff.com/senses.htm>

<http://www.preschoolrainbow.org/5senses.htm>

<http://www.teachers.ash.org.au/jmresources/senses/links.html>

Books

Fun with My 5 Senses. Sarah Williamson. 1998.

My Five Senses. Alikei. 1989.

My Hands. Alikei. 1992.

Sounds All Around. Wendy Pfeffer. 1991.

The Five Senses. Keith Faulkner. 2002