

What's that Scent?

Upper Primary

Activity 3

'My Outdoor Classroom' Lesson Plan

Learning Outcomes

- Observe properties of natural materials using the sense of smell
- Predict the scent of a natural material using the sense of sight
- Compare natural materials using the sense of smell
- Match natural materials with vocabulary that describes scents in nature
- Write descriptions of natural materials using adjectives and nouns
- Make ethical decisions and actions to preserve natural spaces

Elaborate on, extend and integrate this activity with other learning where possible.

Resources:

- Printed 'My Outdoor Classroom' Nature Passport booklets
- Natural items (gathered during the activity)

Class :

Date :

Weather :

Introduction

Challenge your students to search for objects using their nose rather than their eyes. Children love games and challenging their bodies. This activity offers both as they learn about themselves and the properties of nature.

To find success, students need to muster their power of olfactory observation, prediction, memory and analysis.

This activity could form part of a class inquiry project exploring the Science of the human body or botany. It could also be used to explore vocabulary and how we describe the world around us as part of the English curriculum.

Before You Head Out



Consider using a camera or the Nature Passport App to take photos and record the activity (See the Reflection/Discussion section for further details).

- Ask students to name the best scent they have smelled and the worst scent they have smelled in their life.
- Discuss why a sense of smell is important.

What's that Scent Activity Steps

3

Split into pairs

4

Take a 'scent walk' around your schoolyard with a partner - try to find and smell different plants and talk about their scents.

5

Draw and record the smell of three plants. If you don't know the name, write something descriptive like "leafy herb" or "pink flower".

6

Now, ask your partner to close their eyes and lead them to one of your three selected plants for them to smell.

7

Can they guess which plant it was?

7

Want to switch roles and keep playing with new plants? Start the activity again to play another round with a new Guesser and a new Scent Selector!



You can download the free **Nature Passport** app on both the **App Store** and **Google Play Store** to complete this activity and many more!

Visit the website at www.naturepassport.org, where you'll find lots of useful information for families and teachers on how best to use Nature Passport.

Reflection/Discussion

- Ask students to describe the strategies they used to observe, identify and match natural items according to smell.

Elaboration/Extension Ideas

- Create a scent museum and categorise natural items according to scent.
- Choose a tree and find out how many scents it has. Do the leaves, bark, sticks, flowers, fruit smell different?
- Investigate the chemical and biological science behind scents. How do plants use scents to adapt to their environment?
- Use a thesaurus to find other words which could be used to describe natural scents. Write a poem about one of the natural items and include adjectives about its appearance and scent.

