

## **Exploring the Senses**

With the two experiments below, you can explore your senses and how they work. After you've completed them, check out the PowerPoint presentation to see how this relates to the nocturnal animal world!

### **Experiment #1: Coloring in the Dark**

Materials:

- Several different colored crayons
- Blank paper
- Coloring in the Dark data sheet

Preparation:

- Remove the labels from the crayons

Instructions:

1. Take the crayons and the blank paper into a mostly-dark room. (You should be able to just see the paper and the crayons.)
2. Randomly select a crayon and look at it. Try to decide what color it is.
3. Write the color of the crayon or draw something that is the same color on the paper.
4. Repeat for each of your crayons.
5. Take the paper and the crayons into a well-lit room. Use your data sheet to record how many of your guesses were correct and incorrect.
6. Answer the follow up questions on the data sheet.

### **Experiment #2: Use Your Nose**

Materials:

- Two foods with different tastes and similar textures
- Blindfold
- A friend or parent to help you
- Use Your Nose data sheet

Preparation:

- Cut the two foods into pieces that are similar in size and shape

Instructions:

1. With help from your second person, put on the blindfold.
2. Have them put pieces of food into your mouth, one at a time, without telling you which food it is.
3. Try to identify the food. Have your parent or friend record what they gave you and if your guess was correct or not on the data sheet.
4. Take off the blindfold and review how many you got correct.

5. Put the blindfold back on to repeat the experiment. This time, hold your nose closed the entire time.
6. Repeat the experiment, trying to identify the food without smelling it. Have your parent or friend record what they gave you and if your guess was correct or not on the data sheet.
7. Take off the blindfold and review how many you got correct.
8. Answer the follow up questions on the data sheet.



## Use Your Nose Data Sheet

Use the tables below to track how well you can identify food samples, first using your nose and then without your nose. The person who tastes should be blindfolded; the person providing the samples should record what they are and if the guesses are correct.

### With Smell

	Food Sample	Correct	Incorrect
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			

### Without Smell

	Food Sample	Correct	Incorrect
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			

Follow up questions:

3. Did you get more correct with or without your ability to smell?
4. What did you notice about the food samples when your nose was plugged?