My Senses Are Amazing

You have been learning about the five senses. Which senses have we already talked about? (sight & hearing)

My Senses Are Amazing Who can tell me something they have learned about their sense of hearing or sight?

My Senses Are Amazing

Today we are going to talk about our sense of smell. What part of the body is used for smelling things?

Think of a place you like to go with your family. Share one scent associated with your favorite place.

Listen carefully to learn more about the sense of smell. Pay special attention to how your noses can tell when there is something to smell.

Everybody take a deep breath.

Every time you inhale, or breathe in, a lot more than air goes up your nose. Along with air, thousands of tiny little **molecules**, small pieces of things too small to see, enter your nose each time you breathe.

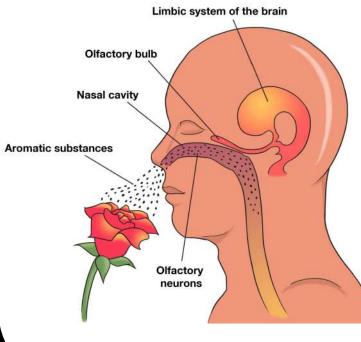
They're called odor molecules, and together they make up what we call **scents**. Scents and odors are smells. When the lady in this picture inhales, the odor molecules travel up her nose, and then she smells the scent of coffee.



Molecules are microscopic--so small that you can't see them without a microscope--but they are floating around in the air all the time. There are millions of odor molecules in the air, especially hovering around everything that has a scent. The inside of your nose is like a big, damp cave, designed to catch and keep odor molecules



When you sniff a flower, odor molecules rush in through your **nostrils**, the two openings in your nose, and travel high up inside your nose until they reach smell receptors. The **smell receptors** tell your brain about the molecules you just sniffed, and your brain sends a message back to tell you, "That's a sweet smelling flower.



People can identify a huge number of different kinds of smells and odors--between four thousand and ten thousand! This is because we can tell the difference between that many different odor molecules.



We're lucky to be able to smell so many odors, even though sometimes they smell bad. Some animals, like dogs, have an even better sense of smell than humans. How many of you have a dog at home? Dogs have twenty-five times more smell receptors than humans!

Dogs have to sniff really hard to get the odor molecules all the way up their nose to meet their smell receptors. If you've ever seen a dog walking with its nose to the ground, you may even be able to hear it sniff. People sniff, too, especially when they want to figure out where a smell is coming from or what a smell means. Can everybody inhale and sniff?

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If you had trouble sniffing just now, then maybe it is because your nose is stuffed up. When you have a stuffy nose, it means that your nostrils are full of **mucus**. Mucus is the slimy, liquid substance secreted inside your nose, called snot. You always have mucus in your nose and other parts of your head, but when you're sick with a cold or have allergies, your body makes even more.

Mucus is very important; it traps dirt that might be floating around in the air you breathe and keeps it from going further into your body. If you are sick, the extra mucus can stuff up your nose or cause it to run. When there is extra mucus in your nose, it is hard for odor molecules to travel high enough into your nose to reach the smell receptors. The odor molecules are <u>blocked</u> or stopped by mucus.

That means that when your nose is stuffed up with a cold, you can't smell as well as when you're healthy. And when that happens, it's time to grab a tissue and blow your nose!

Your sense of smell can help protect you. For instance, if smoke molecules travel through your nostrils to your smell receptors, your brain will know there's a fire somewhere, and you will know that you need to get away from the fire. Even if you are not sure you smell smoke--you only think you do--it is better to leave the area and have an adult check to see if there is a fire. Better safe than sorry!



Your sense of smell doesn't only tell you about bad things or dangers. IT can be a lot of fun to sniff, because many things smell great. Have you ever smelled chocolate chip cookies baking in the oven, or buttery popcorn at the movie theater? Next time you're enjoying your favorite scent, try to remember that odor molecules are hitting your smell receptors and telling your brain, Wow, that smells great!"

Comprehension Questions:



Inference What is the main topic, or main idea, of today's lesson?

The Five Senses Comprehension Questions: Literal What do we call the tiny pieces of things in the air that are too small to see?

Comprehension Questions:



What kind of molecules go into the nose and make up scents?

Comprehension Questions:



Comprehension Questions: Literal Once the odor molecules are inside the nose, where do they go next?

Comprehension Questions:



After the smell receptors "catch" the odor molecules, or scents, where do they send the information about those odors?

Comprehension Questions:



Inferential: Why do you have a hard time smelling odors when you have a cold?

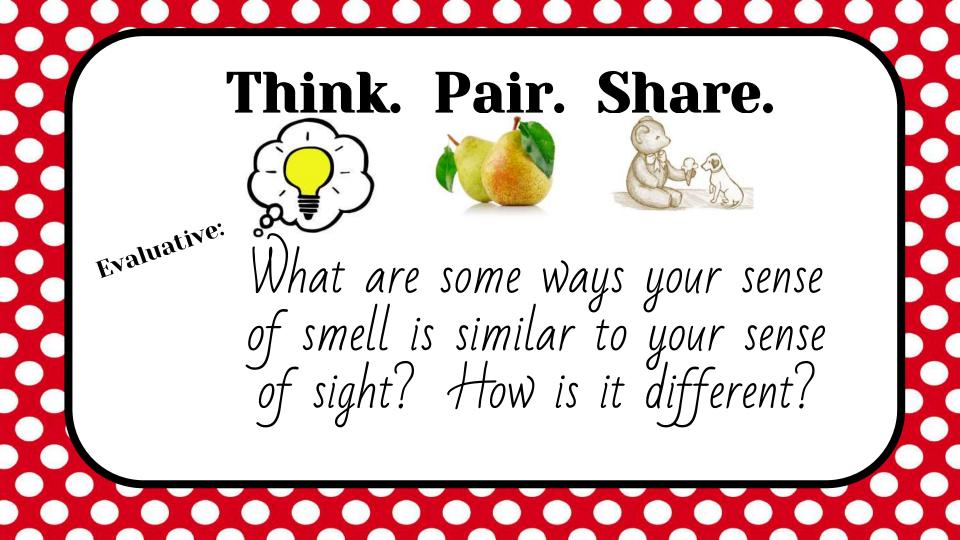
Comprehension Questions:

m^{feren} How can your sense of smell protect you from harm?





I'm going to ask you a question. I will give you a minute to think about the question, and then I will ask you to turn to your neighbor and discuss the question. Finally I will call on several of you to share what you discussed with your partner.



You heard, "They're called odor molecules, and together they make up what we call scents."

Say the word scents with me.

Scents are smells or odors.

On holidays, I can smell many different scents coming from the kitchen.

Please tell me about your least favorite scents.

Use the word **scent** when you tell about it.

"My least favorite scents are"

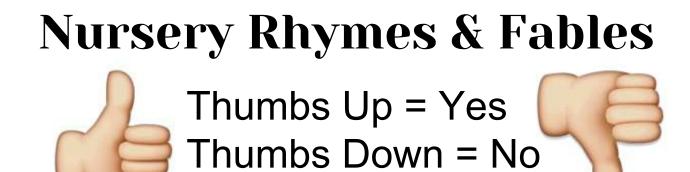
What's the word we have been talking about?

I am going to name some items. If I name something with a scent you like, thumbs up. If it is a gross scent, thumbs down.

Thumbs Up = Smells good Thumbs Down = Smells bad

garbage





a rose





Thumbs Up = Yes Thumbs Down = No

chocolate chip cookies





Thumbs Up = Yes Thumbs Down = No

rotten eggs





Thumbs Up = Yes Thumbs Down = No

a skunk

