Sense of Taste

You have been learning about the five senses. Which senses have we already talked about?

(sight, hearing and smell)

Who can tell me something they have learned about their sense of hearing, sight or smell?

Today we are going to talk about our sense of taste.

What part of the body is used for tasting things?

### The Sense of Smell

Close your eyes for a second and imagine your favorite tastes and foods.

What is your very favorite taste?

### The Sense of Smell

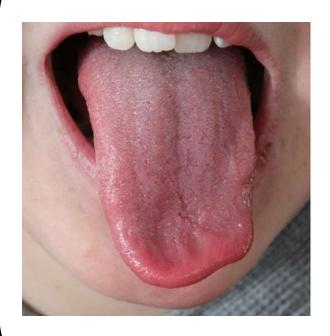
Listen carefully to learn more about the sense of taste and the parts of the body that we use to taste things.



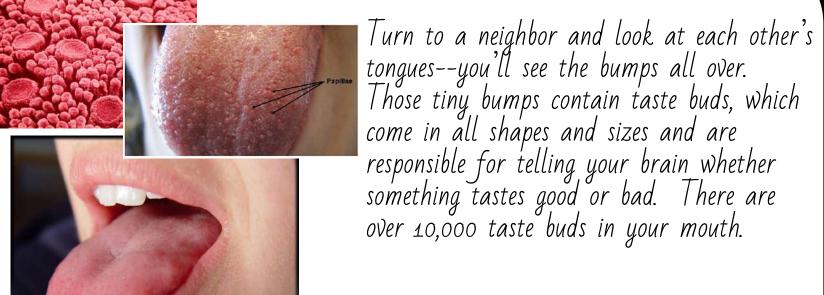
Look at the boy in this picture. He is happy because he's about to taste something yummy and sweet, and he knows it! But if it weren't for a few bumps on his tongue, he wouldn't be able to taste at all. And since taste is the weakest of the five senses, it gets help from another sense to help you enjoy the foods you eat.



Can you guess which sense that would be? Listen to find out what other sense works with taste to help you enjoy the foods you eat.



The first thing you do when you eat food is to open your mouth and take a bite. Then you start to chew it, or grind it up with your teeth. The wet **saliva**, or fluid, inside your mouth melts or dissolves the chewed-up food so it is easy to swallow. As the melted food moves across your tongue to go down your throat, it catches on tiny little bumps on your tongue.











In certain spots on your tongue, you have special taste buds to detect four different types of tastes: sweet, salty, bitter and sour. Fruits and desserts usually taste sweet because they contain sugar. Almost everyone likes sweet tastes--even babies smile when they taste a little sugar.









Pretzels taste salty. A little salt can make foods more flavorful. Bitter, or bitterness, is something that you do not taste very often, especially when you are young. If something is bitter, like coffee, it usually has a sharp or unpleasant taste.



Most people also agree that sour is not a pleasant taste. Lemons and pickles taste sour. What kind of face do you make when you taste something sour? If it's something really sour, like a raw lemon, most people pucker up: they suck in their lips like a fish, squint their eyes and wrinkle their noses.



Here's something else--very important, to remember about taste and taste buds: just because something doesn't taste as good as your favorite food, that doesn't mean you shouldn't try it, especially if it's healthy for you. Taste buds can be trained to accept, and even enjoy, lots of different tastes. Some tastes can seem strange or unpleasant at first, but then your taste buds get used to them, and before you know it, you've learned to like those tastes.



You have five senses: sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch. Taste helps you enjoy your food. But did you know that smell helps you enjoy your food too? In fact, both your senses of taste and your sense of smell work together to help you figure out what your food tastes like. IF you sit down to eat a nice piece of fried chicken, as you bring it up to your mouth to eat, you start smelling it before you take a bite, and you keep smelling it as you chew.



Your taste buds aren't actually that good at identifying chicken all by themselves—they can just tell that it's a little salty, and that it's not sweet, sour, or bitter. However, your nose sniffs in the fried chicken odor molecules and sends the brain even more details about the taste of the oil, and the meat, and the juices!



Next time you have to taste something you don't like--like this boy and his medicine--try holding your nose and see how well you can still taste it. Even though you are putting something in your mouth that travels across your taste buds, you probably won't be able to taste it as well as you would if you weren't pinching your nose. This is because you have closed your nostrils and blocked the odor molecules from reaching the smell receptors.



Without the extra help from the sense of smell, you won't be able to taste things as well.

Have you ever noticed that if you have a cold, your food doesn't taste as good as it usually does? This is because your nose is congested, or filled with mucus, and so your sense of smell cannot help your sense of taste. In fact, if your nose is really stuffed up, you may not be able to taste anything at all.

Comprehension Questions:

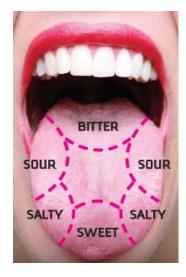
Inferential:

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

Comprehension Questions:

Literal

What are the bumps on your tongue called that help you taste food?



Comprehension Questions:

Literal:

What are the four types of tastes you can taste with your taste buds?

Comprehension Questions:

Inferential:

What are some foods that taste sweet?

Comprehension Questions:

Inferential:

What are some foods that taste salty?

Comprehension Questions:

Inferential:

What are some foods that taste bitter?

Comprehension Questions:

Inferential:

What are some foods that taste sour?

Comprehension Questions:

Literal:

What other sense helps with the sense of taste?

Comprehension Questions:

Inferential:

Why can't you taste your food very well when your nose is congested?

## Think. Pair. Share.







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.

# Think. Pair. Share.







What foods can you think of that both smell and taste good? What foods can you think of that both smell and taste had?

You heard, "If it's something really sour, like a raw lemon, most people pucker up."

Say the word **pucker** with me.

Pucker means to purse your lips together so that you look like a fish or as if you are ready to give someone a kiss.

I usually pucker my lips when I taste a lemon.

Please tell me about when you would pucker.

Use the word pucker when you tell about it.

"I pucker when...".

What's the word we have been talking about?

I am going to name some items. If I name something that makes you pucker, thumbs up. If it wouldn't make you pucker, thumbs down.



Thumbs Up = Pucker Thumbs Down = No pucker



Vanilla ice cream





Thumbs Up = Yes
Thumbs Down = No



lemons





Thumbs Up = Yes
Thumbs Down = No



peanut butter





Thumbs Up = Yes
Thumbs Down = No



pickles





Thumbs Up = Yes
Thumbs Down = No



bananas

