



Can You Tell By Touch?

Adapted from *Can You Tell By Touch?*

www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/education/lessons/can_you_tell_by_touch.html

Grade Level: Grades K-2

Preparation Time: 5 minutes or less

Activity Duration: 30 minutes

Concepts Addressed

- Science is a process by which we learn about the natural world using our senses and extensions of our senses.
- Science relies on the observation physical evidence from the natural world
- Physical evidence is examined and interpreted through logic.
- An observation is a description of the physical evidence based on what we see, feel, hear, smell, or taste.
- An inference is a logical conclusion based on observation of physical evidence.
- A hypothesis is a scientific idea supported by physical evidence.

Objectives

The student will:

- Make observations of natural objects using their sense of touch.
- Make hypotheses about what the objects are based on their observations.

Materials Included

- 6 opaque fabric bags
- Materials for each bag
- Piece of sandpaper
- Cotton ball
- Paper clip
- Piece of chalk
- Facial tissue
- Flat glass marble
- Pine cone
- Piece of slippery material

Background

It is essential for children to learn that rational thought and the scientific enterprise are based upon observations, both direct and indirect. Observations using our senses and extensions of our senses are the starting points for knowledge that reaps benefits for our daily lives and contributes to scientific understanding.

Explore these links for additional information on the topics covered in this lesson:
<http://evolution.berkeley.edu/evosite/nature/index.shtml>

Procedure

1. During a group discussion have students think of all the descriptive words they can that tell how an object might feel to the touch. Make a list of the descriptive words. Ask students if they think they can identify an object just by feeling it.
2. Tell the group that they are going to work with a partner. Each pair will have a bag with items inside it. They will take turns working with their partner to describe and identify the objects in the bag by using only their sense of touch. Either have them decide which one will go first or select which one will go first.
3. Give each pair a bag. Tell the person who is the holder to hold the bag behind the back of the person who is the feeler. The person who is the feeler should reach into the bag with one or both hands and select one item, keeping it inside the bag. The feeler should use descriptive words to tell the holder what the item feels like and then identify the object. The feeler can then remove the object from the bag and use the sense of sight to check accuracy of identification of the object.
4. The partners change roles. The person who is now the holder holds the bag for the new. Again the feeler should reach into the bag with one or both hands and select one item, keeping it inside the bag. The feeler should use descriptive words to tell the holder what the item feels like and then identify the object. The feeler can then remove the object from the bag and use the sense of sight to check accuracy of identification of the object.
5. Continue until all items have been described and identified.
6. As a whole class, discuss how easy or difficult it was to think of descriptive words to tell about objects. Talk about how easy or difficult it was to identify objects using only the sense of touch.