

Follow Your Nose

GENERAL INFORMATION

OBJECTIVES

Students will use their sense of smell to find mint smell on tree bark.

QUESTIONS

What are the five senses? How do our senses help us in our daily lives? How do animals use their sense of smell to help them survive?

VOCABULARY

Senses, hearing, sight, smell, taste, touch, trees

ACTIVITY MATERIALS

Some strong mint extract such as peppermint, live trees or similar substrate, yarn or flagging

METHODS

INTRODUCTION

Gather the students to discuss the five senses. Focus on the sense of smell and how humans use it in their daily lives. Explain that the sense of smell is linked to the sense of taste. Ask the students for examples of the ways that different animals use their senses to help them survive.

ACTIVITY

Tell the students that they are standing in an area that is home to the mint centipede (use the scent or animal of your choice) that regularly leaves a scent where it crawls. Their task is to find the trees on which this centipede has crawled. Allow them to sample the odor before they begin. Divide the students into small teams and have students walk along, sniffing trees to detect which trees the mint centipede visited. If they have found a tree, then they should mark it with their yarn or flagging.

DISCUSSION

Ask: **How might other animals use this scent trail to their benefit?**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- Activity adapted by Allison Mains, January 2007 from Project Learning Tree: Environmental Education Pre K-8 Activity Guide, 2001, American Forest Foundation, "Peppermint Beetle", Activity 3, pp. 7-8.

Teacher's Corner

Grade Level(s)

Pre K – K

Time

15 minutes

Grade Level Expectations

GLE 0007.Inq.1: Observe the world of familiar objects using the senses and tools.

GLE 0007.2.2: Know that people interact with their environment through their senses.