



MUCKY MOOSE
by
Thomas B. Allen

Mucky Moose smelled awful. This saved him from being eaten by a mean wolf. Animals use their sense of smell to find food, detect danger, and sometimes orient themselves.

To transition to this activity, ask your students how good they think their sense of smell is. Could they tell the difference between various scents? Could they find matching scents?

MATERIALS: Two (2) sets of film canisters with the following scents: lemons, flowers, soap, ground coffee, fabric softener sheets, peppermint, vanilla, butterscotch, onions, garlic (or others as desired) -- two of each kind, cotton balls

ACTIVITY #1: Remind the students of how important the sense of smell is to an animal. Distribute canisters to students; you may need to repeat the activity if your class is larger than 20 students, or modify the number of matching pairs if your class is smaller. Have each student open his/her canister. Demonstrate the correct/scientific method of smelling an unknown substance by wafting (waving one's hand toward one over the top of the scent container until one smells its contents). Have them move about the room to find the partner with the same scent. (Quietly note the amount of time this takes.) When all are paired, ask each pair to sit with her/his match in a circle. As the teacher calls on children around the circle, the "pairs" are asked to identify the scent in the film canister. Discuss which scents were easier to match or identify. Repeat several days later, and again, time them. Were they able to do it faster? Discuss possible reasons for this.

ACTIVITY #2: Make a list on the board of the different scents. Ask your students to determine how many different pairings it would be possible to make between the two sets. Do this with pairs and then ordered pairs.

TEACHER NOTES: If the scent is liquid, cotton balls can be saturated with the

liquid. The cotton balls will also "hide" the substance if the film canisters are clear. I develop a teacher key and mark the bottom of the film canister pair with a code of letters, numbers, or symbols. It is easier for you to know if the students actually match. Sometimes the air in the classroom gets filled with all the scents and everyone's nose is confused. This activity would be a great one to do outside. There is a wonderful book by Steven Kellogg, Is Your Mama a Llama? For young children, the two groups trying to find each other could be mamas and babies. This idea comes from Carol Colegate, a teacher from Hamilton, OH. Research does show that human mothers, just as animals, know their babies by their smell rather than the way their babies look.

STANDARDS:

BSL: 1.1, 1.3, 1.5, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, 1.13, 4.6, 5.2, 6.1, 9.5, 9.6, 12.1, 12.9, 12.11, 12.12

NCTM: 1a, 2a, 3b, 3c, 4d, 11a, 13a, 13b

SCS: A1, A2, B1, H2

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