

Key Facts

Humans have five senses - taste, hearing, smell, sight and touch - that they use to help them to find out about the world around them. Four of these senses are associated with particular parts of the body: taste - tongue and mouth; hearing - ears; smell - nose; sight - eyes, while the sense of touch is located all over the body.

Taste

The tongue and the roof of the mouth are covered with around 10,000 tiny taste buds, which allow us to taste food. When food enters the mouth, saliva is produced to help to start to break down the food. Taste buds recognise four basic kinds of taste: sweet, salty, sour and bitter.

Smell

The nose is used to smell smells, but the sense of taste helps with this too. We can distinguish up to 10,000 different smells.

Hearing

We hear using our ears. Sounds are made when something vibrates, for example, the skin of a drum vibrates and makes a sound when it is struck with a drumstick. The ear collects vibrations from sound waves and they travel along a tube to the eardrum.

Sight

Our sense of sight is what we use to see. In order to do this we need light. Light enters the eye through the pupil at the centre of the eye. The light passes through the pupil and falls on the retina at the back of the eye, where information about the image viewed is sent on to the brain.

Touch

While the senses of taste, hearing, smell, and sight are located in specific parts of the body, the sense of touch is found all over the body. The human body has about twenty different types of nerve endings that all send messages to the brain. The most common receptors are heat, cold, pain, and pressure.



Science Year 1 Autumn 1 Using our senses



Vocabulary

Word	Definition
Body	The main part of a person or animal, not including the head, arms, and legs.
Ears	The organ of hearing in people and some other animals.
Eyes	The organ of the body that gives animals sight, and the area close around it.
Mouth	The opening in the face through which one eats, breathes, and makes sounds.
Nose	The part of the face on people and certain animals through which they breathe and smell.
Senses	Any of five ways to understand or experience one's surroundings.
Skin	Covers and protects everything inside your body. Without skin, people's muscles, bones, and organs would be hanging out all over the place. Skin holds everything together.
Touch	The part of the face on people and certain animals through which they breathe and smell.

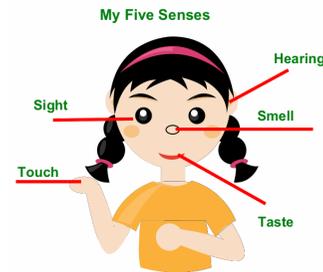
Common misconceptions:

Children may have few misconceptions at this stage about the human body and the senses, but they commonly think that in order to see, 'rays' are sent out onto the object from their eyes.

Knowledge and Understanding:

Children will learn:

- To identify and name simple parts of the body, as they draw and label a life size version of themselves or a class mate.
- To name the five senses and understand that these help them to find out about the world around them.
- To link those senses to particular parts of their body.



Key skills and concepts:

Children will be able to:

Carry out a variety of comparative tests

Answer a variety of questions

Identifying and classify

They will communicate their learning in different ways, including orally, and using talk tools to help them to record their responses.

They will organise any data that they collect using tables and tally charts as appropriate, and look for simple patterns, for example, about their likes and dislikes.

Hands-on interaction with the world around them is essential, particularly for very young children.



Key Questions

Is everyone's body the same?

What differences can our tongues taste?

What can we hear using our sense of hearing?

How can we explore using our sense of touch?

Which smells do we love and hate?

How do we use our senses to find out about the world around us?

What patterns in your findings can you find?

How can we group these sounds?

How can we group these foods?

