Exploring With Your Five Senses

A Habitat Comparison Sensory Activity for Kids, inspired by
The Great Kapok Tree
Can You Name Your Five Senses?

What parts of your body do you use for your five senses?

- Sight – Eyes
- Hearing – Ears
- Touch – Skin
- Taste – Tongue
- Smell – Nose
Animal Senses

- Animals all over the world have senses just like ours to help them survive!
- Some animals have super eyesight; some have super smelling; some have super hearing; and some use their sense of touch to catch prey.
- Sometimes animals use their body parts differently than we do to use their senses. Snakes use their tongues to “smell” the air.
- In this activity, you will learn more about animals from the Amazon Rainforest.
- You will use the animals’ special senses to learn more about your own environment.
What Is the Amazon Rainforest?

The Amazon Rainforest is a big rainforest that grows around the Amazon river in South America. A rainforest is a place where it rains often and there are lots of trees and other plants.

The Amazon Rainforest is the largest rainforest in the world. It is very hot and very humid (there is a lot of water everywhere, even in the air!)
What Is It Like to Visit A Rainforest?

If you were able visit a rainforest, what do you think you would…

**SMELL?**

**SEE?**

**HEAR?**

**FEEL?**

**TASTE?**
What Is It Like to Visit a Rainforest?

Books are a great way to help you imagine what it would feel like to be in the rainforest.

*The Great Kapok Tree* tells the story of a man who goes deep into the Amazon Rainforest. In the passage below, he is using almost all of his senses in the rainforest.

“The man **looked about** and **saw** the sun streaming through the canopy. Spots of bright light glowed like jewels amidst the dark green forest. Strange and beautiful plants seem to dangle in the air, suspended from the great kapok tree. The man **smelled** the fragrant perfume of their flowers. He **felt** the steamy mist rising from the forest floor. But he **heard** no sound, for the creatures were strangely silent.”

- *The Great Kapok Tree* by Lynne Cherry (2000)
You might not be able to visit a rainforest, but...

You can explore nature around your home, your neighborhood or in a local park!
Begin Your Sensory Exploration!

Grab an adult partner and your worksheet.

Find a safe place to sit, stand or walk where you can be quiet and concentrate.

Take two deep breaths IN through your nose and OUT through your mouth.

Get ready use your senses to explore, just these rainforest animals...
SIGHT

This GREEN-WINGED MACAW has excellent eyesight!

Imagine you are a BIRD with very good EYES. LOOK all around you – up and down! What can you SEE from where you are?
This AGOUTI uses her very sensitive ears to hear! 🎧 🎧

Imagine you are an AGOUTI with very good EARS.

Hold very still and LISTEN quietly.

What sounds can you HEAR nearby?
This **TWO-TOED SLOTH** has a super sense of smell. 🦖

Imagine you are a **SLOTH** with a very strong **NOSE**.

**INHALE** a slow, deep breath through your nose. Then take several short, quick breaths.

What can you **SMELL** where you are?
This ANACONDA uses his tongue to taste the air! 🌿

Imagine you are a SNAKE with a super-special TONGUE.

STICK OUT your tongue and breathe in through your mouth.

What can you TASTE in the air?
TOUCH

This **GOLIATH BIRD-EATING TARANTULA** has bristles on her legs to FEEL.

Imagine you are a **SPIDER** with sensitive **BRISTLES**.

Close your eyes and use your fingertips to TOUCH something nearby.

What does it FEEL like?
Learn More from the Smithsonian’s National Zoo

All the animals in this activity can be found at the Smithsonian’s National Zoo in Washington, DC!

The National Zoo even has a small indoor rainforest, called Amazonia, where birds, monkeys, and other animals can roam free through the building, almost like if they were in the wild!

Visit our website for more information! https://nationalzoo.si.edu/education
Exploring with Our Five Senses

WRITE or DRAW your answers (or TELL a grownup) as you complete the “Exploring with Our Five Senses” activity.

What are your five senses?

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What is a rainforest?

If you could visit a rainforest, what do you think you would:

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<th>Hear?</th>
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<td>See?</td>
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Did you **SEE** anything surprising when you pretended to be a **MACAW**?

What did you **HEAR** when you pretend to be an **AGOUTI**?

What did you **SMELL** when you pretend to be a **SLOTH**?

Could you **TASTE** anything in the air when you pretended to be an **ANACONDA**?

What was your favorite thing to **TOUCH** when you pretended to be a **TARANTULA**?

Which animal was the most fun to pretend to be?