

# Super Sensory Detectives: Exploring Our World

## Lesson Overview

**Target Grade:** Kindergarten (Age 5)

**Essential Question:** How do my five senses help me learn about the world?

**Learning Goal:** Students will identify the five senses and their related body parts to collect information and describe the world around them.

**Anchoring Phenomenon:** The "Magic Popping Box" (A covered popcorn popper making noise, scent, and heat).

## Standards Alignment

- **SC.K.L.14.1:** Recognize the five senses and related body parts.
- **SC.K.N.1.1:** Collaborate with a partner to collect information.
- **SC.K.N.1.2:** Make observations of the natural world and know that they are descriptors collected using the five senses.

## Materials Needed

- Popcorn kernels and a popper (or a microwave bag)
- A "Mystery Bag" containing a piece of fruit (like an orange or apple)
- Handheld mirrors
- "Sensory Detective" badge (paper cutout)
- Chart paper and markers
- Small tray with items: a bell, a piece of sandpaper, a flower, and a slice of fruit

## 1. Engage (The Hook)

**The Magic Popping Box:** Place the popcorn popper behind a screen or inside a box so the student cannot see it. Start the popping process.

**Talking Points for the Educator:** "Freeze, Detective! Use your 'hearing ears.' What is that sound? Now, use your 'smelling nose.' What do you smell? I haven't shown you what's in the box yet, but your body is already telling you secrets about it! What do you think is happening?"

## 2. Explore (Hands-On Practice)

**Activity: The Popcorn Observation**

Once the popcorn is ready, give the student a small bowl. Work as partners to fill out a "Sensory Map"

on chart paper.

- **Sight:** "What does it look like? Is it purple? No, it's white and fluffy!"
- **Sound:** "What did it sound like when it was cooking? Pop! Pop!"
- **Smell:** "Does it smell like a flower? No, it smells buttery!"
- **Touch:** "Pick it up. Is it wet? No, it's dry and bumpy."
- **Taste:** "Take a bite. Is it spicy? No, it's salty and crunchy!"

*Collaboration Note:* If in a classroom, pairs compare their descriptions. In a homeschool setting, the parent and child act as "Detective Partners" to agree on the descriptors.

### 3. Explain (Content & Modeling)

**I Do:** Use a mirror to look at your own face. Point to your eyes, ears, nose, and mouth. Explain that these are our "Information Gatherers."

**Talking Points:** "Our body parts are like tools in a toolbox. Our **eyes** give us **sight**. Our **ears** give us **hearing**. Our **nose** gives us **smell**. Our **tongue** gives us **taste**. And our **skin** (all over our hands and body) gives us **touch**."

**We Do:** Play "Simon Says: Sensory Edition." (e.g., "Simon says touch the body part you use to see a rainbow!" "Simon says point to the part that hears a whistle!")

### 4. Elaborate (Real-World Application)

#### Activity: The Nature Sensory Walk

Take the student outside (or to a window/indoor garden). Tell them they are now "Nature Detectives." They must find one thing in nature for each sense.

- Find something **green** (Sight).
- Find something **rough** like tree bark (Touch).
- Find a **bird chirping** or wind blowing (Sound).
- Find a **flower or fresh grass** to sniff (Smell).
- *Note: For safety, discuss that we only "Taste" things that a trusted adult says are okay!*

### 5. Evaluate (Assessment & CER)

#### CER Activity (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning):

Present a "Mystery Bag" with an orange inside. Let the student feel it (without looking) and smell it.

- **Claim:** Ask, "What is in the bag?" (Student: "It is an orange.")
- **Evidence:** Ask, "How do you know?" (Student: "It feels round and bumpy. It smells citrusy/sweet.")
- **Reasoning:** Ask, "Why does that prove it's an orange?" (Student: "My hands and nose collected clues, and oranges are the only things that feel and smell like that!")

**Success Criteria:** The student can correctly match all 5 body parts to the 5 senses and provide at least

one descriptor (e.g., "loud," "soft," "red") for each sense during the nature walk.

## Differentiation

- **For Struggling Learners:** Focus on one sense at a time. Use "Sensory Flashcards" that show an eye next to a picture of a sun, and an ear next to a picture of a drum.
- **For Advanced Learners:** Introduce the "Sixth Sense" of Balance (Vestibular). Ask them to describe things using *two* senses at once (e.g., "The lemon is yellow AND sour").

## Conclusion

**Recap:** "Detectives, you did a great job today! We learned that our eyes, ears, nose, tongue, and skin are our best tools for exploring. Without them, the world would be a very quiet and dark place. Keep using your 'Super Senses' today!"