



Making Sense of Animals (Teacher's Page)
In-Zoo Activity
Grades: Pre K-K

Materials: Student activity sheet, pencils, ball, bucket, stick, three flavors, piece of fabric, hard covered book, Lego blocks, and healthy snacks.

Vocabulary: Observe, describe, sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch.

What's it all about?

There are many ways to observe and learn about different animals. This activity encourages students to use their five senses to observe and describe the animals they see at the Zoo.

Objective:

The students will use their five senses to observe and describe animals at the Zoo.

What to do at School:

Prior to your visit, tell the students they will be using their five senses to describe some of the animals at the Zoo. Review each of the five senses with the students.

- Sight – Show the students a ball. What shape is this object? What color is it? Can you tell me what body part you use to see the ball?
- Hearing – Turn a bucket upside down and hit the top of it with a stick. Which sense were you using when I was banging on the bucket? What body part do you use to hear?
- Smell – Bring out three bottles of different flavorings (vanilla, orange, cinnamon, etc.). Have the students smell each one and try to guess the flavors. What body part do you use to smell?
- Touch – Have the students touch soft fabric, a smooth book cover, and bumpy Lego blocks. As they touch each item, ask them to think of some words that describe how that item feels.
- Taste – Provide the students with healthy, multi-flavored snacks and have them describe the different tastes of each item.

At the Zoo:

Make enough copies of the student activity sheet for each adult chaperone to take to the Zoo. At each of the focus exhibits, the chaperones should write down the words that the students use to describe the animals. Beside each word should be the sense that the students used for the description. For example: “loud... hearing” or, “tall... sight.”

Back at School:

Ask the students what other animals they saw at the Zoo. Did they see different colors? What else did they hear? Smell? Feel? Taste? Which animal do you think has the best hearing? Draw that animal.



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Student Activity Sheet

Sight: Visit the tigers. How many tigers do you count? What colors do you see on the tiger?

Smell: Visit the elephants. Outside, what do you smell? Compare the smells outside to the ones inside the elephant barn. What words describe the elephant smell?

Hearing: Visit the lemurs and howler monkeys inside the Tropical Forest. Are they making any sounds? Describe what you hear.

Taste: Take a lunch break. What does your food taste like? Would any of the Zoo's animals like to eat your lunch?

Touch: Visit the goats and sheep in Kids Kingdom. Touch both types of animals. Do they feel the same or different? What words would describe how they feel? Also visit the Kangaroo Yard if it is open.