

How Does It Feel?

Estimated Time:

Prep: 5 min.

Activity: 15 min.

Introduction

Overview

Experiment: Students identify objects using only their sense of touch.

Key Concepts: Students will develop their sense of touch, deepening their understanding of **size**, **texture**, temperature, **weight**, density, and pliability.

Lead-In

Explain that we gather information about our world through our senses. Review the five senses, concentrating on the sense of touch. Invite students to close their eyes and use their hands to touch their desk, the carpet, their clothes, etc. Describe the way these things feel. Use words such as **smooth**, **rough**, **soft**, **hard**, etc. Discuss other ways things feel to the touch, such as **hot**, **cold**, wet, dry, prickly, fuzzy, etc.

To explore the topic further, set out various sensory objects (sandpaper, a stuffed animal, an ice pack, a rock, a marble, etc.) on a table and invite students to explore the objects. Discuss how the objects feel. Compare and contrast them.

Teacher Preparation

Lead-In & Try This!

Materials:

- Sensory objects
- Small classroom objects

Prepare:

- Make copies of the Experiment Sheet.

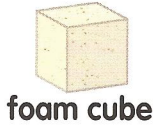
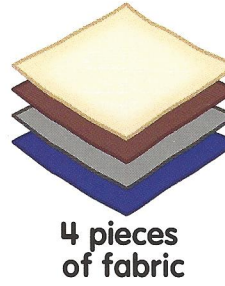
Optional Preparation:

- Set out various sensory objects on a table for children to explore and discuss before they do the experiment.

Vocabulary

- ◆ **cold** having a low temperature; not warm
- ◆ **hard** very firm; the opposite of "soft"
- ◆ **hot** having a high temperature; very warm
- ◆ **rough** having an uneven surface; the opposite of "smooth"
- ◆ **senses** the ways our sense organs give us information about the world; include touch, sight, hearing, smell, and taste
- ◆ **size** how big something is
- ◆ **smooth** having an even surface; the opposite of "rough"
- ◆ **soft** not firm; the opposite of "hard"
- ◆ **texture** the feel or look of a surface
- ◆ **touch** the sense by which we feel physical objects
- ◆ **weight** how heavy something is

You Will Need



Experiment 1: Sense of Touch

Name _____

How Does It Feel?

What I think it is:	It feels _____	Was my guess correct?
Object 1		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Object 2		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Object 3		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

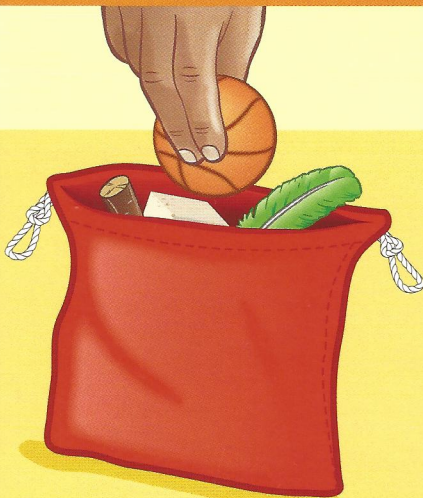
WORD BANK
bumpy fuzzy hard heavy light rough sharp smooth soft

Experiment Sheet

Procedure

1

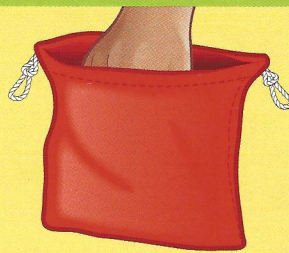
Place all the objects in the bag.



2

Without looking, reach into the bag. Touch an object with your hand. Can you guess what it is?

Draw a picture and tell what you think the object is. Describe how it feels.



Experiment 1: Sense of Touch

Name Lisa Craig

How Does It Feel?

What I think it is:	It feels _____	Was my guess correct?
Object 1		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Object 2		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

WORD BANK
bumpy fuzzy hard heavy light rough sharp smooth soft

3

Take the object out. Was your guess correct? Record your results.

Repeat steps 2 and 3 two more times.

Experiment 1: Sense of Touch

Name Lisa Craig

How Does It Feel?

What I think it is:	It feels _____	Was my guess correct?
Object 1		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Object 2		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Object 3		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

WORD BANK
bumpy fuzzy hard heavy light rough sharp smooth soft

Name _____

How Does It Feel?

What I think it is:	It feels _____.	Was my guess correct?
Object 1		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Object 2		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Object 3		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

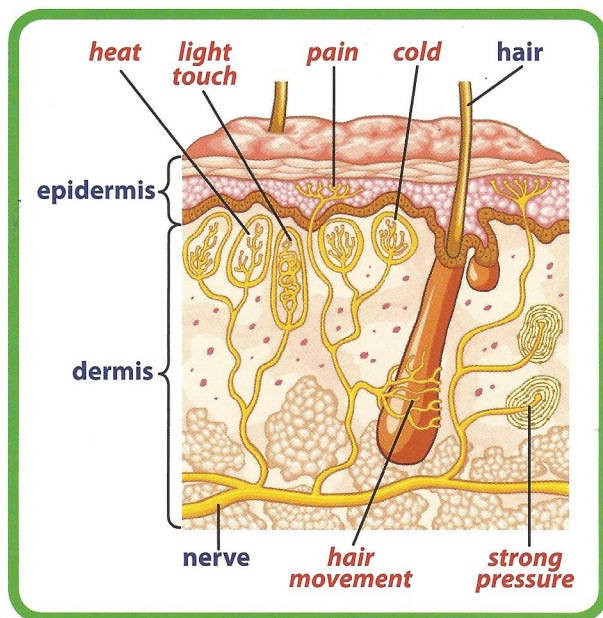
WORD BANK

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Why?

The skin is the body's largest sensory organ. It can detect many different sensations, such as texture, pressure, and temperature. Within the skin, there are different types of receptors, or sense cells, that respond to different sensations. When a receptor is activated, it sends information through nerves to the brain. The brain thinks about the information and then tells the body how to react.



Discussion Prompts & Questions

- There were two cubes in the bag. How did they feel different? How did they feel the same?
- Can you name three things that felt rough?
- The marble, the mini basketball, the pom-pom, and the metal ball are all round. How could you tell the difference between them?
- Can you use your other senses to learn more about the objects?



Sentence Frames

- I like touching _____. I don't like touching _____.
- It feels _____.
- It reminds me of _____ because _____.



Try This!

Have children work in pairs to find other classroom objects to add to the bag. Invite them to take turns placing items in the bag and reaching in to touch one without peeking. Encourage them to describe how it feels and guess what the object is before pulling it out of the bag. What characteristics helped them identify each object?