

## **Title: Let's Make Sense of This**

**Content Standard C (Grades K-4):** Humans and other organisms have senses that help them detect internal and external cues.

### **Standard 5:**

Indicator 3.5.5 Explain that one way to make sense of something is to think of how it relates to something more familiar.

### **Background:**

Elephants use their senses of smell, touch, sound, vision, and taste to interact in their environment. These senses help the elephants to communicate, to find food and water, to find a mate and to avoid danger. All of these senses help elephants survive in their environment.

**Purpose:** To experience some of the different senses that people use and relate these senses to the elephant.

### **Materials:**

- Plastic bag with items used for touch: fur, felt, cotton balls, sandpaper, marble, piece of wood, etc.
- Film canisters filled with scents: vanilla, diluted window cleaner, vinegar, peppermint, cinnamon, onion, orange peel, lemon peel, coffee grounds, etc.
- Lemon and an apple

### **Activity:**

1. Have students one by one place a hand into the plastic bag and try to identify the items.
2. Give students film canisters filled with scents and have them identify the scents.
3. Talk to the students in a normal voice. Ask the students to cup their hands and place their hands next to their ears (with the cupped portion facing the teacher). Ask the students if they could tell a difference with the sound.
4. Have the students turn their hands (cupped portion away from the teacher) and ask the students if this makes a difference with the sound they heard.
5. Put a piece of lemon right below a student's nose (make sure this student has their eyes closed) and give the student a piece of apple to eat. Ask the student to identify what they ate.
6. Have students research how elephants use their senses and write a report.

### **Assessment:**

1. Discussion of how elephants use their senses.
2. Paper on how elephants use their senses.

### **Resources/teacher notes:**

1. Soak cotton balls in the liquids and place the soaked cotton balls in the film canisters (vinegar, diluted window cleaner, vanilla, etc.).