
Five Senses Nature Walk



Pre-Kindergarten Teacher Resource Guide

Table of Contents

Lesson summary	1
Vocabulary	1
Activity Page.....	2
Extension Activities.....	3
Education Standards	4-5

Five Senses Nature Walk: Lesson Summary and Vocabulary

Lesson Summary: YSI's *Five Senses Nature Walk* takes students outdoors for a chance to physically explore nature in the Bay Area. Students will discuss their five senses and go over trail rules with their YSI instructor before heading off to see, hear, touch, smell, and taste their way through a short hike. Just under an hour will be spent on the trail. Natural features vary strongly by program site, but an emphasis is placed on native plants and animals, wilderness safety, and experiencing nature in ways that are often overlooked. Students will learn to avoid poison oak, identify common uses of their local flora, and understand the way a landscape changes over time. All hikes will focus on observation and critical thinking skills and use group discussion to share and build on student discoveries.

Vocabulary: Below are words and concepts that relate to the YSI *Five Senses Nature Walk* program.

Adaptation: In biology, a change in an organism over time that better enables it to survive and multiply. An adaptation can be structural, physiologic, or behavioral.

Camouflage: blending in with an environment

Creek: a flowing body of water smaller than a river; stream

Deciduous: a type of tree that loses its leaves at a certain time of year

Decomposer: an animal that feeds on dead matter and breaks it down into simpler compounds

Ecosystem: a community of living things, together with their environment

Environment: the sum of everything that surrounds animals and humans in the natural world, including the air, the water, and the soil

Evergreen: a type of plant that keeps its leaves or needles all year round

Habitat: the natural environment of a plant or animal

Niche: the part of an ecological system occupied by a particular organism, or the functions of that organism in the system

Oak Tree: a tree belonging to the beech family that has acorns as its fruit

Poison Oak: a common West Coast plant that causes itching and has leaves in groups of three

Redwood: an extremely tall species of tree with red bark; any tree in the *Sequoia* genus

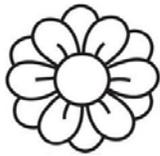
Senses: the parts and functions of our body that make us keenly aware of our environment; seeing, hearing, smelling, touching, and tasting

Trait: a distinguishing feature or characteristic, as of one's appearance, personality, or nature

Definitions based on www.dictionary.reference.com

**Five Senses Nature Walk
 Activity Page**

Find which senses you use with each object!











Five Senses Nature Walk: Extension Activities

The extension activities listed below are from RAFT (Resource Area For Teaching). RAFT educational content is available online (www.raftbayarea.org) at no cost and is aligned to California Science Standards and Next Generation Science Standards. Below is a selection of post-visit activities from RAFT to extend student learning about the five senses and their local ecosystems.

[RAFT Idea: Guess What - Resource Area For Teaching - RAFT Bay Area](#)

Grades Covered: Pre-K through 3

Subjects Covered: Physical Science, Language Arts

Curriculum topics: Senses, Physical Properties, Descriptive Words

A fun way for kids to practice description and communication while learning about physical properties.

<http://www.raftbayarea.org/ideas/Guess%20What.pdf>

[RAFT Idea: Nature Book - Resource Area For Teaching - RAFT Bay Area](#)

Grades Covered: K through 12

Subjects Covered: Life Science, Earth/Space Science, Language Arts, Art

Curriculum topics: Journaling, Bookmaking, Observing

Create this artistic and outdoorsy book from easily found materials.

<http://www.raftbayarea.org/ideas/Nature%20Book.pdf>

[RAFT Idea: The Germinator - Resource Area For Teaching - RAFT Bay Area](#)

Grades Covered: K through 8

Subjects Covered: Life Science

Curriculum topics: Botany, Plant Growth, Scientific Method

Create a reusable germinator that gives students an unobstructed view of sprouting seeds.

<http://www.raftbayarea.org/ideas/The%20Germinator.pdf>

Five Senses Nature Walk: Education Standards

Our Five Senses Nature Walk program will contribute to students' ability to meet the following standards from the Head Start Framework for 3-5 year olds:

Physical Development & Health: Health Knowledge & Practice

- Follows basic health and safety rules and responds appropriately to harmful or unsafe situations.
- Participates in structured and unstructured physical activities.

Gross Motor Skills

- Develops motor control and balance for a range of physical activities, such as walking, propelling a wheelchair or mobility device, skipping, running, climbing, and hopping.

Social & Emotional Development: Social Relationships

- Cooperates with others.
- Uses socially appropriate behavior with peers and adults, such as helping, sharing, and taking turns.
- Recognizes how actions affect others and accepts consequences of one's actions.

Self-regulation

- Follows simple rules, routines, and directions.

Emotional & Behavioral Health

- Adapts to new environments with appropriate emotions and behaviors.

Approaches to Learning: Initiative & Curiosity

- Demonstrates eagerness to learn about and discuss a range of topics, ideas, and tasks.
- Asks questions and seeks new information

Cooperation

- Helps, shares, and cooperates in a group.

Logic & Reasoning: Reasoning and Problem Solving

- Recognizes cause and effect relationships.
- Classifies, compares, and contrasts objects, events, and experiences.
- Uses past knowledge to build new knowledge.

Language Development: Receptive Language

- Attends to language during conversations, songs, stories, or other learning experiences.
- Comprehends increasingly complex and varied vocabulary.
- Comprehends different forms of language, such as questions or exclamations.

Mathematics Knowledge & Skills: Number Concepts & Quantities

- Recognizes numbers and quantities in the everyday environment.
- Uses one-to-one counting and subitizing (identifying the number of objects without counting) to determine quantity.

Five Senses Nature Walk: Education Standards

Number Relationships & Operations

- Uses a range of strategies, such as counting, subitizing, or matching, to compare quantity in two sets of objects and describes the comparison with terms, such as more, less, greater than, fewer, or equal to.

Geometry & Spatial Sense

- Compares objects in size and shape.
- Understands directionality, order, and position of objects, such as up, down, in front, behind.

Measurement & Comparison

- Compares objects using attributes of length, weight, and size (bigger, longer, taller, heavier).
- Uses nonstandard and standard techniques and tools to measure and compare.

Science Knowledge & Skills: Scientific Skills & Method

- Uses senses and tools, including technology, to gather information, investigate materials and observe processes and relationships.
- Observes and discusses common properties, differences, and comparisons among objects.
- Participates in simple investigations to form hypotheses, gather observations, draw conclusions, and form generalizations.

Conceptual Knowledge of the Natural & Physical World

- Observes, describes, and discusses living things and natural processes.
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Social Studies Knowledge & Skills: People & the Environment

- Recognizes aspects of the environment, such as roads, buildings, trees, gardens, bodies of water, or land formations.
- Recognizes that people share the environment with other people, animals, and plants.
- Understands that people can take care of the environment through activities, such as recycling.

Excerpted from: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ohs/resource/hs-child-development-early-learning-framework>