

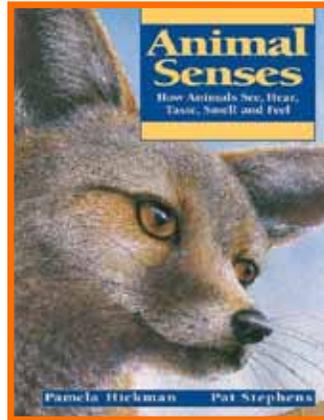
Making Sense of Animal Senses

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Reading Together

Take a moment to read this great book: **Animal Senses** by Pamela Hickman with illustrations by Pat Stephens.

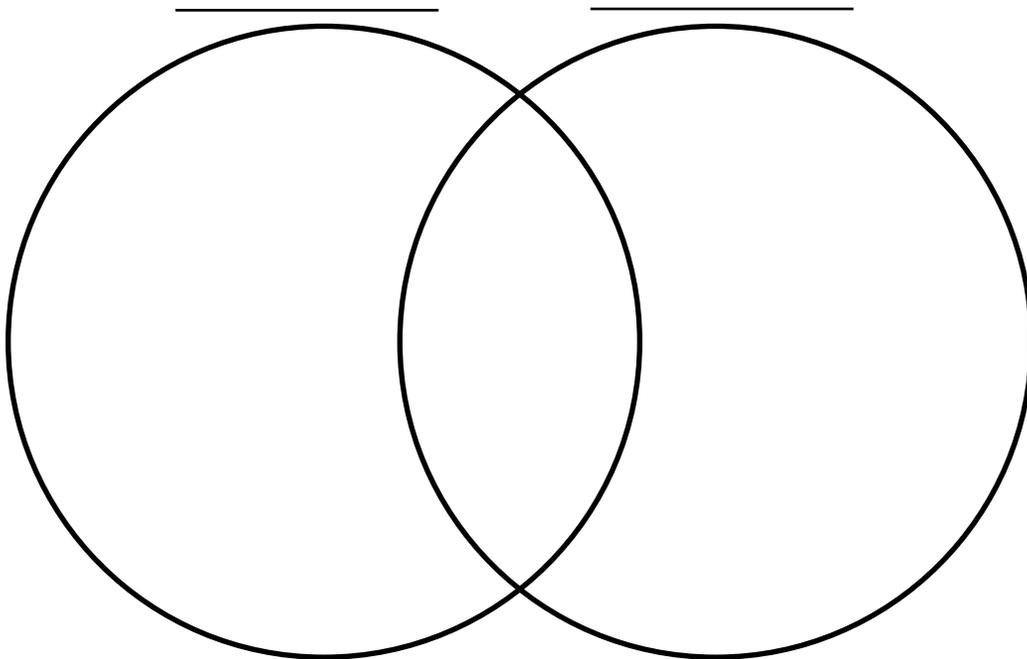
Animal Senses reveals the extraordinary ways animals sense their environment. Easy-to-do experiments and activities show kids how to compare animal senses to their own.



The Animal Kingdom

In the Animal Kingdom there is great diversity in types of animals. Make a list of common animals in New York State. Now think about the animals from throughout the world and expand your list. How are these animals alike and how are they different?

Choose two very different animals and complete the venn diagram below.



Animals have changed and adapted over time to adjust to their environments and improve their chance of survival. On the next page, you will find a **Make Sense Out of Senses** worksheet. Think about the listed animals and how their senses work. Make sense out of their senses!

Then add to the list your own three or four animals with descriptions of their senses.

MOST*

HELPFUL TERMS

Adapted
Blubber
Environments
Insulator
Venn Diagram

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Make Sense Out of Senses Student Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Animal	Sight	Sound	Smell	Touch	Taste
Snake					
Turtle					
Fox					
Humans					
Bumblebee					
Dog					



Activity: Blubber!

Adapting to the Environment

What would help an animal adapt to the following environment? The Arctic or Antarctic?

What do walruses, whales, and seals have as an adaptation to help them to stay warm in the cold climate?



What to do:

1. Fill one of the resealable sandwich bags about 1/3 full of shortening.
2. Turn the remaining resealable sandwich bag inside out. Place it carefully inside the bag with the shortening so that you are able to seal the two bags together. This creates a "blubber mitten" in which you can put your hand.
3. Put your hand in the bowl of cold water and see just how cold it is!
4. Next, place your hand inside the "blubber mitten" and place your hand in the cold water. Explain the difference?



MATERIALS NEEDED

Crisco (or other fat)

2 resealable sandwich bags

Bowl of water with ice cubes

Students should be able to:

Use three animal examples and describe how their senses work.

Explain three animal adaptations.

Activity courtesy of Blubber As An Insulator by Joanne Griffin from Mailring.

Blubber! Student Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

1) Explain the differences between the two ways your hand felt.

2) Explain how blubber might be helpful in a cold climate.

3) What other type of adaptations assist with cold temperatures?

4) Name some animals that would have some of each adaptation mentioned above.

5) How does the feather, or fur, of an animal help to keep it warm?

Information for the Teacher

Other Activities:

Have students draw a picture of a bird or animal with fur and place feather or fur on the picture as appropriate. Ask them to label their pictures with parts of their animal that have adaptations for the cold.

Species have adapted to their specific environments in order to thrive within their own settings. Complete some research and fill in the following: How do animals adapt to different environments? Have the students choose an environment and determine how the animal(s) adapt(s) to this environment.

Swamp

Desert

Rainforest

Jungle

Mountain

Tidal Environment

New York State Standards

Classifying, communicating, compare and contrast, observing and generalizing

Standard 1: Scientific Inquiry:

Key Idea 1: s1.1

Key Idea 3: s3.1, s3.4b

Standard 2: Information Systems:

Key Idea 1

Standard 4: i, iii, iv, v, xii, xiv, xvi

Key Idea 1: 1.1a, 1.2a

Key Idea 2: 2.1a

Key Idea 3: 3.1a, 3.1c, 3.2a, 3.2b