

BIG QUESTION: Can we remember smells?

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

1. **S**et the scene by telling the story.
2. **ASK:** Can you name any smells that remind you of a certain time, place or person?
3. **A**s a class, discuss how smells can remind you of a certain time or place, or make you feel happy like Simone's Mum, or take you back to another type of mood or feeling.
4. **S**how children the first pair of images you have selected from the image gallery
5. **ASK:** Can you describe the image?
6. **N**ow present them with a food to smell, hidden in a shoe box with perforated lid. Without saying what they think the smell is, ask them to choose which image they think most represents that smell.
7. **C**hildren could stand in lines in front of the image they have chosen. This could work like a 'talking graph' and the children can then give detailed reasons for their choice of image.
8. **T**ell the children to collect and record the results for this activity, which is repeated with different pairs of images and different aromas. They should look for any interesting links between the choice of image and the type smell.

RESOURCES

- Download and print the images available on the resource base. These can be displayed in pairs (as advised) around the classroom:

- warm sea / cold frost
- sweet fruit / savoury meat
- raging sea / still swimming pool
- misty fog / roaring fire
- forest walk/lush vineyard

To
download

RESOURCES

- A selection of strong smelling foods to present to children. Examples could include: a stinky cheese, cloves, cinnamon, peeled satsumas, flavoured crisps, onion, garam masala or curry powder, ginger, garlic etc. It will help to look at the images to inspire your food selection
- A shoe box or similar with perforated lid, or for liquids, a covered bottle with perforated lid.
- Children may request additional aromas for their own smell and memory investigations.

To source

SAFETY

If using food products and fragrances for smelling activities, you must ensure you have up to date information relating to any food allergies children may have and take appropriate precautions.

WHAT NEXT?

Children could develop their own smell and memory/emotion tests, for example they could provide a range of well-known aromas and ask subjects to describe how the smell makes them feel and what it reminds them of. They could also describe a memory that the smell reminds them of and how this makes them feel. There are some lovely creative, descriptive writing opportunities here.