



Summer Sensations

I can



Challenges

Summer is a fantastic time for enjoying nature. Using our different senses means we get to experience all the amazing wonder of wildlife, and being outdoors with lots of fresh air is a great way of having fun whilst we keep our social distance and stay safe. Check out these **SCENT** challenges for you and your family or household bubble to do during the holidays.

On your daily walk or in your garden

These are challenges to do while you are outside but it's important to stay safe and also look after nature. Here are tips to follow if collecting from the wild:

- Remember to **always ask an adult** before going for a walk
- Identify and **avoid touching** plants such as stinging nettles, foxgloves and fungi that may cause skin irritation, illness, etc.
- Carefully pick **only a single petal or leaf** so as not to damage the rest of the plant
- **Never taste** or put any parts of **wild plants** near your mouth
Eating outside is fun but take a picnic with you to use your sense of taste
- **Always wash hands** after you have been handling natural objects



Scratch & Sniff Nature Painting

Make your own scratch & sniff artist's paint from scented natural materials such as leaves and petals you find while out on a walk, or some pieces of fruit and vegetables you have at home.

What you need?

- An old cereal box or a piece of card of similar thickness & scissors
- Poster paints, PVA glue, a paint brush & some old small plastic tubs for mixing

What to do?

- Cut the cardboard out the shape of your palette
- Collect small bits of natural materials with different scents e.g. leaves, petals, fruits, etc. These will be your paint *ingredients* so the squishier the better but no live animals please!
- Working with one ingredient at a time: cut into tiny pieces, put in a plastic tub, add paint and a small amount of PVA and then mash everything together with the brush. (Top tip: You can choose the colour to match the scent e.g. green for leaves or orange for an orange, or you might want to go for something different to make it a more of surprise.)
- Now transfer a thick dollop of the mixture on to your palette.
- Repeat with different scents and coloured paint until you have filled your palette then leave to dry completely. (Top tip: this make take 2 or 3 days. Putting on an indoor window ledge which gets lots of sun will speed it up.)
- Once dry, you can scratch the paint to reveal the scents.



Some ingredients will work better than others so once you know which, why not make some more and paint a scratch & sniff *Still Life* picture of all the best scented paint ingredients.

Countryside Cocktail Party

Create your very own range of scented cocktails to celebrate the smells of the countryside.

What you need?

- Paper cups / old yoghurt pots & a bottle of NatureEd Pixie Juice.
(Top tip: If you can't find Pixie Juice in the shops to buy then some tap water with a few drops of food colouring in works just as well!)
- A stick for stirring & fun things for decorating for your cocktails e.g. umbrellas, streamers, pens, etc.

What to do?

- Decide if you're making a beautiful perfumed cocktail or a really horrible smelly one and start collecting small bits of natural materials (no live mini-beasts please!) with different scents.
- Decorate the cups with pens then add your scented materials.
- Pour a bit of Pixie Juice into the cups and use the stirrer stick to really mush them up to release the smells.
- Now decorate your cocktail with berries, extra leaves, etc. and think of a fun names to call them. You could even make a cocktail menu.
- Finally, invite your family to your Countryside Cocktail Party and get them to choose their favourite but do remind them **not to drink your cocktails**, just smell them!



Scent Guessing Game

Make a game to test you and your family's sense of smell. You can use scented things you find on your daily walk, in the garden or even raid the kitchen cupboards (ask an adult first!)

What you need?

- Empty jars/plastic containers, preferably with a lid. Old spice jars are ideal.
- Coloured tape/paper to stick around the jars and/or a blindfold or a scarf would also do.

What to do?

- Wash & dry the jars then cover the sides with tape/ paper so you can't see what is inside.
- Choose various familiar strong scented things e.g. fresh/dried herbs like mint or coriander, flower petals like honey suckle or rose, vegetables like onion or garlic.
- Place each item into a different jar and close the lid.
- Now get your family to take turns at wearing the blindfold or closing their eyes and having a go at guessing the scents. Don't forget to open the lid so they get a good whiff of it!

Here are some more **SCENT** nature challenges

Summer Scents Download www.treetoolsforschools.org.uk/activities/pdfs/pdf_summer_scents.pdf and take on your daily walk. How many did you find? Which was your favourite?

Plant a Herb Garden Herbs are fantastic multi-sensory plants, with many of them having wonderful fragrances. Grow your own by following this link www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/gardening-children-schools/family-activities/grow-it/grow/herb-container

Make a Potpourri *Potpourri* is a French word with *pot* meaning the same as it does in English while the word *pourri* means putrid or rotten! Luckily most potpourri use dried flowers and leaves to give lovely pleasant aromas. Follow the link to have a go at making your own: www.projects-for-kids.com/gift-projects/potpourri.php

Wildlife Tracking Scientists have found most animals have a sense of smell but some are better than others. It is one of the most common ways animal communicate. Some animals use scents to mark their territories, while others use them to "talk" to each other to find food or a mate. Use the *Who*, *When* & *Where* sheets to track how local wildlife smell and are smelt!

Who's Nose?

Can you work out who these noses belong to? Then draw a line between the photo and the correct fact about its incredible sense of smell. Tick the ones you have seen in real life.



Name:

This animal's distinctive tiny pointy nose has to work hard to find all the insects, slugs & snails it feeds on because it has to eat the equivalent of 80 - 90 % of its own body weight every day!



Name:

This animal walks with its pointy black nose sticking up in the air to catch whiffs of what's around them. The cold and snow make sniffing out enough food to survive too difficult, so it sleeps through winter instead. This is called hibernation.



Name:

This animal's nostrils are on the sides of its pink, pointed snout to stop them getting clogged up with soil. Scientists have recently discovered each nostril can pick up a different scent meaning it smells in stereo!



Name:

This animal twitches its nose up and down to detect scents. This is called nose blinking.



Name:

This animal's large nose helps make its sense of smell 700 – 800 times better than humans. They can easily smell worms and grubs deep below the soil and even under a thick layer of snow meaning they can find food all year round.

While smell is the least evolved of human senses, we can still recognise up to 10,000 different smells and the part of the brain which does this is linked with memory which is why a smell can often make you think of a holiday or a place you've been before.

Who's Poo?

The droppings or *scat* that animals leave behind are useful clues to where and how they live. Check out the photos and descriptions then see if you can find which animal is living (and pooping!) near you. Make When & Where notes in the boxes. You could even take a photo for your records but remember **never touch poo with your bare hands** - it can contain germs that might make you poorly.



Foxes produce dog-like droppings that are usually pointy at one end and full of fur, feathers, tiny bones, seeds and berries. In rural areas, fox poo is quite dark, but in urban areas, where foxes eat human food waste, it can be lighter. Fresh droppings have a distinctively musky or 'foxy' smell.

When	Where



Hedgehog droppings are about 5 cm long, cylindrical and generally quite dark. They might be filled with bits of insects and worms.

When	Where



Badgers poo in shallow pits called 'latrines'. Their droppings vary from firm and sausage-shaped, to softer, slimier and darker if they've been eating lots of worms! Badger droppings have a sweet, musky smell.

When	Where



Bats leave droppings where they roost, so they can often be found stuck to walls or on the ground under holes or trees. They have a rough appearance and are filled with chewed-up bits of insect.

When	Where



These are not poo but do a similar job....

Owls regurgitate parts of their food that they cannot digest, such as the fur and bones of small mammals and birds. These 'pellets' can look like animal droppings, but do not smell and gradually turn grey as they dry out.

When	Where