



USING SMELL TO FIND YOUR FAMILY



Match scents to explore how animal mothers identify their young

GRADE K

MATERIALS

- containers
- lids
- cotton balls
- various scents

KEY WORD

- scent

STANDARD

- SCI.K.3

OBJECTIVE

- Students will learn the method that animal parents and young use to identify each other.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- In nature, each parent recognizes its own baby by the baby's individual scent.

PROCEDURE

- Gather a variety of strongly scented, non-toxic liquids such as vanilla, peppermint extract, lemon juice, vinegar, etc.
- Prepare identical sets of scent containers with lids and make enough so that each student can have one container or one lid.
- Wet two sets of cotton balls with each liquid.
- Transfer the scent on the cotton ball to the lid by shaking each container with the lid on just before using it.
- Give each student a scented lid or container and have each 'baby' (student with lid) try to locate their 'parent' (student with the container) by matching the scents.

RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- Make sure the students have found their correct match.

TEACHER HINTS

- Be sure that none of the students have allergies to any scents that are used in this activity.
- Make sure to label the matching container and lid with a code for your information.

