

RAFT IDEAS

Topics: Senses (touch),
Physical Properties,
Descriptive Words

Materials List

- ✓ Paper bag or box with “reach-in” curtain
- ✓ Familiar objects that students can easily identify

This activity can be used to teach:

- Conversation & Vocabulary (Common Core English Language Arts Standards: Grades K-3, Speaking & Listening, 1, 3, 6; Grades K-3, Language, 1, 5, 6)
- Properties of materials (Next Generation Science Standards: Grade 2, Physical Science 1-1, 1-2)



Guess What!

Learning to see with your hands



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

Assembly

1. Without letting your students see, place a familiar object (such as a crayon or tennis ball) in a paper bag or “reach-in” box.
2. Optional: place several objects into the bag.

Playing the Game (for 3+ of players)

1. One player reaches into the bag and, without looking, describes the object’s size, shape and texture to the other players.
2. The other players try to guess what the object is.
3. The first player to guess correctly wins.
4. Optional: if using several objects, the describer could list several attributes of each object and the other players could write their guesses down on a piece of paper. The player with the most correct guesses wins.

Taking it Further

This game can be played in a variety of ways. Instead of guessing the object, students could try to draw the object they hear described.

The Content Behind the Activity

The skin (epidermis and dermis) is the body’s largest organ. Its main jobs are protection of other organs, temperature regulation, and housing the sensory neurons. Sensory neurons come in about 20 “flavors”, but the most common receptors are heat, cold, pressure, and pain (and more pain receptors than any other type). The least sensitive part of the body is the middle of the back, while the most sensitive areas include hands, face, lips, tongue, and feet. Once triggered, the neurons send messages to the brain via the spinal cord for registration, interpretation, and potential response. With practice, humans can increase their abilities to interpret touch cues (i.e.- the raised bumps used in Braille to read words).

Every object has a set of attributes (physical properties) that can be used for identification, such as texture, material, size, and shape. Most people find that using only the sense of touch to identify an object challenging because humans rely so much on their sense of sight (up to 70%) compared to their other senses.

When describing objects, students will use adjectives (e.g. - soft, rough, thin, hard). Playing *Guess What?* would provide a good opportunity to review or introduce the adjective as a part of speech.

Web Resources - (Visit www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=95 for more resources!)