

Stare detective



Concept:
Investigation and inquiry



Recommended:
1st grade



Length:
20-60 minutes

About this lesson

In this lesson, students will memorize items on a tray, use their 5 senses as tools to find color and shape clues, and draw a picture of the clues they discover. While we suggest 1st grade for this activity, you can adapt it to suit the needs and interests of your class.

Learning objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- Identify details of objects using their senses
- Recall details about objects after observing them
- Describe what objects are used for and how they look
- Identify color and shape using their senses

Driving question

How can using our senses help us become better detectives?

Future ready skills

Critical thinking

Communication

Time management

Self-management

Problem solving

Lesson breakdown

20-30
minutes

Activity 1 - Memory tray

In this activity, students will practice observation skills in a fun item memorization activity.

30-40
minutes

Activity 2 - Sense detective

In this activity, students will use their 5 senses as tools, find color and shape clues, and draw what they discover.

In-app My Files

Upload a photo of students' drawings to the **My Files** app on their **Dpad**.

Lesson vocabulary

- Observe
- Memory
- Senses
- Object
- Details

ASCA standards

B-LS 8. Engagement in challenging coursework

Memory tray



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Inquiry prompts

- What helps us remember something even after it is hidden?
- Why do detectives need to look closely at small details?

Instructions

In this activity, students will memorize items on a tray.

- 1 Remind students that detectives have to stay alert and keep a watchful eye on what's going on. Out of students' sight, place some items on a tray and cover them with a towel. Tell students that their mission is to memorize as many items on the tray as they can in 30 seconds.
- 2 Uncover the tray and place it where students can see it (you can also have small groups of students take turns coming to your desk to observe the items).
- 3 Students then have a minute to draw as many items as they can remember.
- 4 Have students compare their items; the student who remembers the most items wins!
- 5 You can extend the game by changing the criteria of the objects that students must remember. For example, you can ask students to remember only the items that are round or used for certain tasks. You can also remove items from the tray and ask students to identify only the items that have been removed.
- 6 Conclude with a class discussion using the inquiry prompts.

Materials required

- Tray
- 10 to 20 small objects (e.g. coin, pencil, playing card, etc.)
- Towel

Artifacts

Students' drawings of tray items

Sense detective



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Length:
30-40 minutes

Inquiry prompts

- What is a "clue"?
- Why do detectives look for clues?
- What senses can we use to find clues? (Can we see, smell, hear, touch, or taste them?)

Instructions

In this activity, students will use their 5 senses as tools, find color and shape clues, and draw what they discover.

- 1 Remind students that detectives look for clues to help them solve a mystery or find an answer. Explain that while a detective uses tools like magnifying glasses, their most important "built-in" tools are their 5 senses. Today, they will practice using these senses to gather clues.
- 2 Tell the class that for their first detective assignment you're going to call out a clue. Their job is to point to the body part (sense) they would use to find that clue.
 - **See:** "I see a bright red fire truck!" (Students point to eyes).
 - **Hear:** "I hear a loud whistle blowing!" (Students point to ears).
 - **Smell:** "I smell a yummy chocolate cookie!" (Students point to nose).
 - **Touch:** "I feel a soft, fluffy teddy bear!" (Students point to hands).
 - **Taste:** "I taste a sour, yellow lemon!" (Students point to mouth).
- 3 For their second detective assignment, students will focus on using their sense of sight to find clues hidden in the class room. Have students make "binoculars" with their hands over their eyes and scan the room for:
 - **Color clues:** "Detectives, find a red clue! Now find a blue clue! Now find a yellow clue!"
 - **Shape clues:** "Detectives, find a round clue! Now find a square clue!"
- 4 For their final detective assignment, give each student a piece of paper and crayons. Ask them to pick one item they found using their "Detective eyes" and to create it on their paper.
- 5 Students can then trade clue drawings with a partner to see if they can find the object in the room.

Materials required

- Plain paper
- Crayons or markers

Artifacts

Students' shape and color clue drawings