



## Nature Smellies

*Grades 2nd—5th*

### OVERVIEW:

This activity is designed to encourage students to explore the ecosystem around them through their sense of smell. Students will collect natural materials and create their own personal scent. This lesson plan outlines an adaptation to make it possible to do this activity indoors.

### Intended Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to...

- Observe the natural world around them
- Use their sense of smell to make new connections with their ecosystem
- Develop their skills of exploring and curiosity

### Materials List:

- ⇒ Small cup, baggie or other container
- ⇒ Access to a range natural materials, either outdoors or collected indoors

### Activity

With a small cup, baggie or other container, students should walk around and explore an area outside. This can also be done on a walk or a hike. The students should be provided with designated boundaries or appropriate supervision. While exploring, encourage students to smell different natural objects—plants, rocks, dirt, etc. Students should be encouraged to only take objects that have already fallen from trees and plants, to ensure that they do not damage living things.

Some objects in nature do not smell very strongly at first, but if you rip or crunch them, they may smell differently. Encourage students to try this method while exploring.

When they find a smell that they like, they should take a small portion of that object and place it inside their container. Students should then continue to add objects as they find them. Encourage them to find a variety of different smells. Once they have filled their container or once they are satisfied with the smell of their container, they have finished. They have now created their own, personal scent!

### Reflection

After completing this activity, students can reflect on their scent and the process of creating it by answering or discussing the following questions.

1. What did you include in your scent cup?
2. What does your scent remind you of?
3. If you had to name your scent, what would you name it?
4. While exploring, were there any smells that you did not like?
5. Of the things that you smelled, was there anything that surprised you?

### Indoor Adaptation

If the student does not have green space around their home or if they are unable to be supervised outside, this activity can also be done with previously collected natural materials.

Collect a variety of natural objects—plants, rocks, dirt, etc. Make sure to only take objects that have already fallen from trees and plants, to prevent damaging living things.

Once collected, spread the objects out on a tarp or in a large container. They students can then explore the objects and practice the activity as written above.