



Sensory Observations

Standard/Benchmarks:

- Scientific thinking and practice (observation)

Objective:

Observe and qualitatively describe surroundings using sight sound, touch, and smell

Prerequisite Learning:

None

Skills/Concepts Introduced:

Observation

Description

Activity Overview:

Various sensory objects are arranged in the room for students to notice and describe. Some objects are more obvious than others, and the students are asked to list and describe as much as they can. This will help the students with observations during lab.

Preparation:

Set-up of sensory objects, which may include: candles, incense, TV, lights, popcorn, coffee, air freshener, crumpled foil, various textured items, music, etc....

Time Allotment: ~45 min



Complete lab: (no handout)

When the students first enter the room, they are asked to put everything away except for paper and pencil. They are then asked to make a list of observations (~2 min). The students can then share what they have observed, and the senses are then covered so that they are reminded that observations are not only visual. The students are then given time to create a new list that requires a number of observations for each sensory category. New sensory material may be introduced through the class period. To wrap up this activity, discuss the application of detailed observation during lab.