

Lesson Plan

Sensory Survival

Book: *Sight*

Series: My Senses

Level: Pioneer

Objective

To help students use the book and a video about cat adaptations to brainstorm how senses might relate to survival.

Supplies

- *Sight* book
- Access to the “Cat Adaptations: Super Senses” video: <https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/nat37.sci.super.senses/cat-adaptations-super-senses/>

Before the Activity

Read through the *Sight* book as a class. Pull up the “Cat Adaptations” video in your web browser.

Activity

The *Sight* book describes one of the five senses. Its words and images focus on people using the sense of sight. But people aren’t the only living beings that use the five senses. Most animals use all five senses as well. One example is the rusty spotted cat.

Watch the video as a class. Then ask students the following questions:

- What are the five senses? (Answer: sight, hearing, taste, touch, and smell)
- How are the rusty spotted cat’s senses the same as ours? How are they different? (Answer: The cat has the same senses we do, but its senses are stronger. The cat’s eyes are six times more powerful than ours and sensitive to the slightest movement. The cat’s whiskers can feel the faintest touch or bit of wind. The cat’s hearing is better than ours, and it can even hear sounds that are imperceptible to the human ear. The cat’s sense of smell allows it to distinguish between a billion different odors.)
- How does the rusty spotted cat use its senses to survive? (Possible Answers: The cat looks for danger, smells for food, etc.)
- How might people use their senses to survive? (Possible Answers: People could smell smoke and know there is a fire nearby. People could hear yelling or see others running and suspect that something is wrong. People could feel a hot object and know to move their hands away quickly. People could taste something icky and know to spit it out.)

Evaluation

Could students recall key details from the video? Could students brainstorm ways in which people might use their senses to survive?

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational text, grade 1 (RI 1.1, 1.2), and the National Science Education Standards' Content Standard C, grades K–4.