Name: _____ Date: _____

The Smell That Takes You Back to Grandma's

Circle group

Has a smell made you think of a place or a person? Pine trees might remind you of camping. Fresh bread might bring back an old kitchen. This happens to many people.

Your nose has tiny cells that notice smells. When you sniff, bits of a scent float in and touch the cells. The cells send a message to your brain.

The message goes to a part of the brain that is close to the parts that keep memories and feelings. They are so near each other that a smell can bring back a memory fast. You may feel happy before you know why.

Smells help keep you safe too. Your nose can warn you about smoke or bad food.

Questions

1. What is in your nose that notices smells?

_____

_____

2. Where do the cells send a message?

_____

_____

3. What parts of the brain are close to the smell part?

_____

_____

4. What is one way smells keep you safe?

_____

_____

5. What might you feel before you know why?

_____

_____

6. Why can a smell bring back a memory fast?

_____

_____

Words to know

scent: a smell, often a nice one
memory: something from the past that you remember
cells: the tiny building blocks that make up living things
sniff: to breathe in quickly through the nose
warn: to tell someone about a danger

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Smell That Takes You Back to Grandma's

Triangle group

Has a smell ever made you remember a place or a person? Maybe the scent of pine trees reminds you of a camping trip. Maybe fresh bread brings back a kitchen from long ago. This happens to many people.

Your nose is full of tiny cells that notice smells. When you sniff, little bits of the scent float in and touch these cells. The cells send a message to your brain.

Here is the interesting part. The message goes to a part of the brain that is close to the parts that store memories and feelings. Because they sit so near each other, a smell can pull up a memory fast. You may even feel happy or calm before you know why.

Smells also help keep you safe. Your nose can warn you about smoke or food that has gone bad. Next time a scent makes you smile, think about how well your brain connects what you sense with what you remember.

Questions

1. What is inside your nose that notices smells?

_____

_____

2. Where do the cells send their message?

_____

_____

3. What parts of the brain are close to the smell part?

_____

_____

4. What is one way smells help keep you safe?

_____

_____

5. What might you feel before you know why a smell is special?

_____

_____

6. Why can a smell bring back a memory so fast?

_____

_____

Words to know

scent: a smell, often a nice one
memory: something from the past that you remember
cells: the tiny building blocks that make up living things
sniff: to breathe in quickly through the nose
warn: to tell someone about a danger

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Smell That Takes You Back to Grandma's

Square group

Has a particular smell ever made you remember a certain place or person? Perhaps the scent of pine trees reminds you of a camping trip, or perhaps the aroma of fresh bread brings back a kitchen from long ago. This experience is common among people of all ages.

Your nose is lined with tiny cells that notice smells. When you sniff, microscopic bits of a scent drift in and touch these cells, and the cells then send a message to your brain.

Here is the fascinating part. That message travels to a region of the brain that sits close to the regions that store memories and feelings. Because they are neighbors, a smell can pull up a memory very quickly, and you may even feel happy or calm before you understand why.

Smells also help protect you. Your nose can warn you about smoke or about food that has spoiled. The next time a scent makes you smile, consider how cleverly your brain connects what you sense with what you remember.

Questions

1. What lines your nose and notices smells?

_____

_____

2. Where do the cells send their message?

_____

_____

3. Which parts of the brain sit close to the smell region?

_____

_____

4. What is one way smells help protect you?

_____

_____

5. What might you feel before you understand why a smell is special?

_____

_____

6. Why can a smell bring back a memory so quickly?

_____

_____

Words to know

scent: a smell, often a nice one
memory: something from the past that you remember
cells: the tiny building blocks that make up living things
sniff: to breathe in quickly through the nose
warn: to tell someone about a danger

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: The Smell That Takes You Back to Grandma's

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: The Smell That Takes You Back to Grandma's

Easier · 120 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.2

1. Tiny cells.
2. To the brain.
3. The parts that keep memories and feelings.
4. They can warn you about smoke or bad food.
5. Happy.
6. The smell part of the brain is close to the memory part.

Triangle: The Smell That Takes You Back to Grandma's

This passage · 162 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.4

1. Tiny cells.
2. To the brain.
3. The parts that store memories and feelings.
4. They can warn you about smoke or spoiled food.
5. Happy or calm.
6. The smell part of the brain sits close to the memory part.

Square: The Smell That Takes You Back to Grandma's

Harder · 171 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.5

1. Tiny cells.
2. To the brain.
3. The parts that store memories and feelings.
4. They can warn you about smoke or spoiled food.
5. Happy or calm.
6. The smell region of the brain is a neighbor of the memory region.