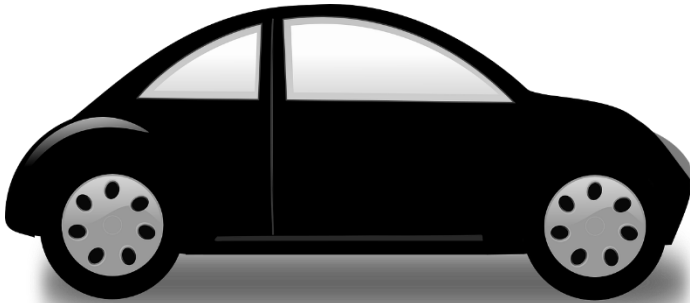
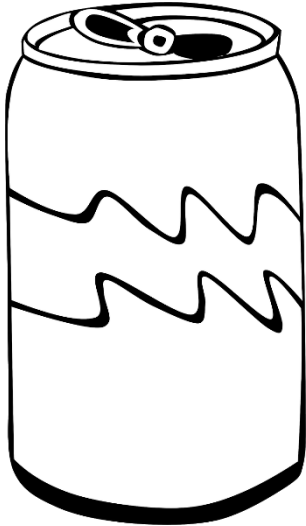


Instructions: Print out one sheet for each student. Have students cut on the dotted line.



SENSATIONAL SENSES – JELLYBEAN ACTIVITY

Description

As part of the Sensational Senses program, the instructor will guide your class through an experiment on taste. This experiment involves students eating a jellybean and plugging their nose. Due to the current Covid-19 situation, the instructor will demonstrate the experiment and the students can do the experiment when they have just washed their hands before lunch, at the end of the day, or at home. (See Background Information for more information on taste and smell when leading the activity)

Please inform the instructor if the experiment should be omitted from the program.

Background Information

Our tongue is covered with papillae, which also help grip and move food, and some papillae have taste buds. A human tongue has around 2,000 – 8,000 taste buds. Taste buds are regenerated every 1-2 weeks. As a person ages, not all of the taste buds get replaced. So, a younger person might notice a stronger taste than someone who is older. Taste buds are able to detect sweet, salty, sour, bitter and umami tastes. Though there is a common myth that certain areas of the tongue can only sense specific tastes, it has been proven that all tastes exist on all areas of the tongue. However, some areas are more sensitive to different tastes than others.

Our sense of taste and smell are connected with each other. Odors can enter through the nose and reach the olfactory receptors. This triggers nerve impulses and transmits information to the brain. However, when you chew food there is an olfactory referral, where the back of the nasal passage also acquires scent information. Without the sense of smell our sense of taste is limited to the sweet, salty, sour, bitter and umami tastes. This is why when you chew the jellybean with your nose plugged it is hard to tell the flavour, but when you unplug your nose you can distinguish the flavour.

