

# How Animals Smell, Taste and Touch

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All humans and animals use their senses to smell, taste and touch. But some animals do these things differently from humans – some taste with their feet, touch with their noses, and smell with their antennae!

"The catfish are brilliant. I never knew they had whiskers and looked like a cat!"  
Alice



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HOW ANIMALS SMELL, TASTE AND TOUCH

# How Animals Smell, Taste and Touch

Written by Jo Windsor





## Emperor moths

The world's sharpest sense of smell belongs to an animal without a nose! Emperor moths smell using their large antennae.

Air flows over the antennae as the moths move. The antennae are covered in smelling **receptors**, which pick up smells in the air.

Emperor moths use their amazing sense of smell to find other moths. Male moths can smell female moths from as far as 11 kilometres away.

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## Nose to the ground

Many animals have a much better sense of smell than humans do. We have about five million smell receptors in our noses. This is enough to smell 10,000 different smells.

This mountain rescue dog is looking for people trapped under the snow

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# Memory Mangle!

Can you remember what an elephant is particularly good at sniffing out?



**Bug Time!**

## Make It!

Make a collage of a star-nosed mole in its tunnel. Use a piece of dark card. Draw the tunnel on a piece of dark card. Cut out a mole from black velvet and stick it down. Cut out the paws and star-shaped nose from pink paper and stick them down. Use a small sequin or bead for its eye. Cut out a tasty worm or two. Use PVA glue and sand with brown paint for soil.



Answer: Memory Mangle! An elephant can sniff out water from five kilometres away.

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## Quiz

- 1 What do Emperor moths use to smell?
  - a feet
  - b antennae
  - c nose
- 2 What are police sniffer dogs trained to look for?
  - a missing truffles
  - b missing people
  - c missing dog food
- 3 Which animal can taste food without touching it?
  - a snake
  - b butterfly
  - c earthworm
- 4 Where are a fish's special touch receptors found?
  - a on its tail
  - b on the top of its body
  - c on the side of its body

Answers on page 31