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Measuring Matter

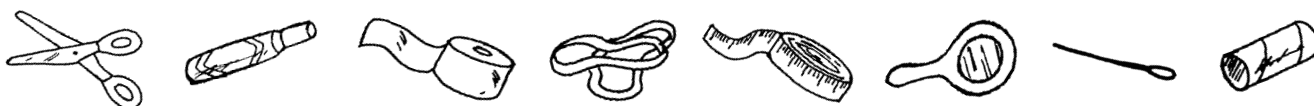
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Introduction

Short-N-Simple Science activities are safe, short, and simple investigations that can usually be completed in one class period. The activities involve each child in “doing” fun, yet sound, scientific inquiry.

The first activity in each section is an overview of what will be learned in that section, and can be used to introduce new vocabulary. Each activity within a section develops a key concept. You can choose to do all the activities in a section or select only certain activities. The activities may be done as a whole class, in small groups, or set up at a learning centre. Some activities require adult supervision. Some of the activities can be extended into a science project.



Materials The materials required for investigations in *Short-N-Simple Science* are readily available in most classrooms and are listed in the categories below. Any special materials required are listed under each topic. Check the specific activity page to find the required number or amount of each material.

Classroom supplies

paper clips
scissors
tape
white glue
crayons
markers
globe
chart paper
art supplies: black and white construction paper, tissue paper, collage materials
cardboard

Measuring tools

measuring tapes
air thermometer
measuring cups and spoons
centimetre ruler

General science equipment

balloons
clear plastic cups
food colouring
watch with a second hand
torch
compass

Items from the recycling bin

small jars with lids
empty plastic cordial bottles
different-sized and -shaped containers
film canisters with lids

Kitchen items

paper towels
access to hot and cold water
access to a freezer and ice
access to a hot plate
mixing bowls
plastic bags
plastic wrap
plastic forks and knives
metal, plastic, and wooden spoons
paper bags

The following special materials are required in the investigations listed.

Our Five Senses

blindfolds
assorted wet and dry foods
orange, grape, and apple juice
cinnamon
chocolate or carob chips
bread pieces

All About Animals

shoe boxes for habitats

Earth and Space

red, yellow, and blue playdough
three different kinds of rocks
fizzing antacid tablets

Growing Plants

two different types of soil
two small, identical houseplants
celery
assorted cut fruits with seeds
alfalfa seeds
clean nylon sock
10 dry pinto, Lima, or kidney beans

Watching the Weather

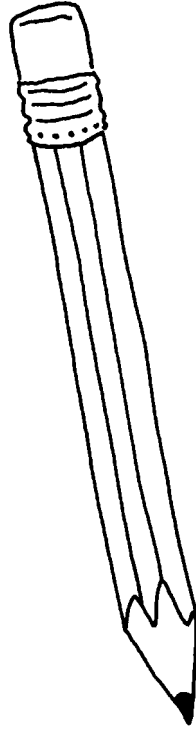
cotton or wool socks
brad fasteners
comb

Continues on page 6

The Five Senses

Your five senses help you know the world.

To solve the puzzle, read each clue. Then write the name of the body part that matches the picture. Use words from the Word Box.



1.				
2.			3.	
4.				

Word Box

tongue
skin
nose
eyes
ears

1. → You see with your .

1. ↓ You hear with your .

2. → You feel with your .

3. ↓ You smell with your .

4. → You taste with your .



What Part Am I?

Read each clue. Write the name of the plant part in the puzzle. Use words from the Word Box.

1. I make fruit and seeds.

2. I hold up the leaves and flowers.

1. I take in sunlight to make food.

3. We are under the ground. We take in water.

4. I take in water.

1.

2.

3.

4.

Word Box

flower
leaf
stem
roots

Why Have Two Ears?

Here is what you need:



two forks



a chair



a partner

1. Sit in a chair. Close your eyes. Have your partner stand nearby and tap the forks together. Then have your partner move to a new location and tap the forks again. Point in the direction of the sound. Were you right? Do this three or four times. Are you always right?



2. Try the activity again with your right ear covered. Then try it with your left ear covered. Do you hear the same with one ear as with two ears?



3. Switch places with your partner. Repeat steps 1 and 2. Does your partner's hearing match yours?



Put on Your Thinking Cap!

Imagine you are an animal that hunts its food. You use your ears to hear and find your prey. What would happen if you had only one ear?