



**Senses
With
Shy Wolf
Sanctuary**

Senses

Our five senses help us learn about the world around us, just like senses in animals

Animals senses help them find food

Protect them from predators

Provide animals with information about their environment

Help them find shelter and avoid threats.



Vocabulary

- **Sensory Organs** - the organs of the body that access those sensory capabilities and help us become conscious and respond to our surroundings
 - the eyes (for seeing), nose (for smelling), ears (for hearing), tongue (for tasting), and skin (for touching or feeling).
- **Senses** - our ability to detect stimuli which are then interpreted and responded to accordingly
- **Response** – Our response or reaction to the stimuli
- **Behaviors** – actions that develop as a result or a response to a stimuli

- What senses would you use to find food if you were dropped off in a city you had never visited before?





Touch

Touch, is an important form of communication for humans and many animals.

- Touch is used to comfort, to establish dominance, and to establish bonds.
- Touch is also referred to as tactician
- Our skin is the largest sense organ in our body.
- The receptors on our skin allow us to feel texture, pain, temperature, and pressure.

Touch

Many animals lick and nuzzle their babies. Other types of animals groom each other, and cubs or kittens wrestle with each other.

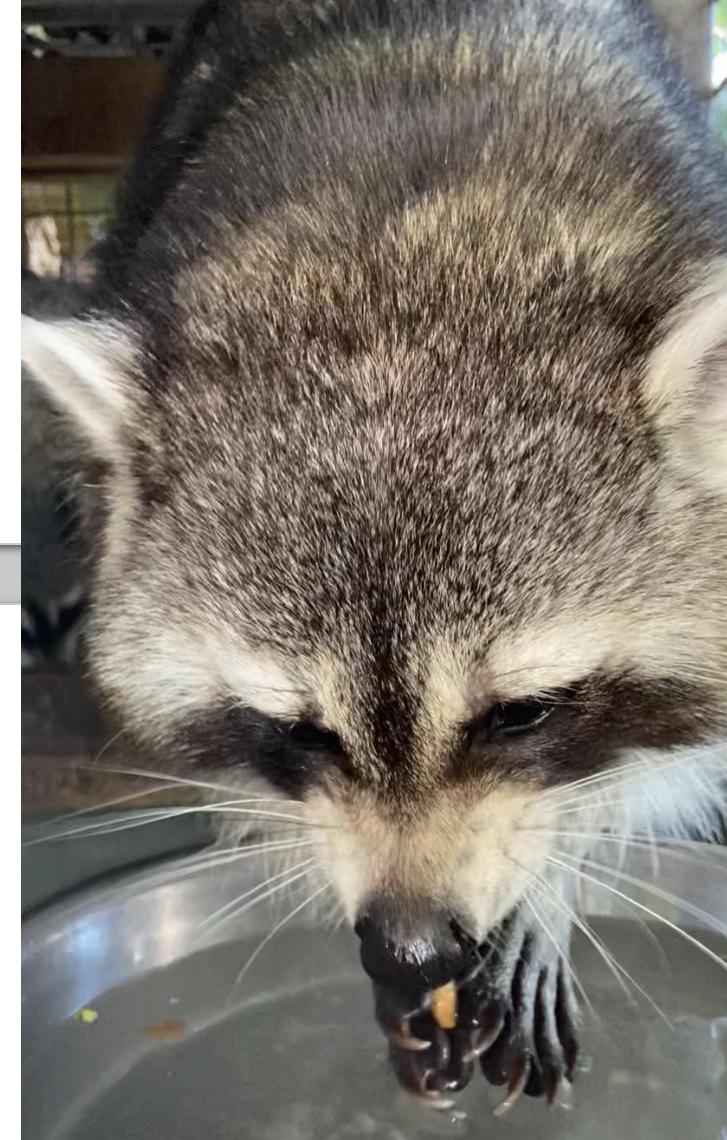
Touch is an important part of play and animals use it to teach survival skills like hunting.

Animals also use touch to establish social bonds and to scent mark. Some species, like otters, often rub their faces together and touch noses.



Did You Know?

Raccoons have poor eye sight and they wash their food, not to clean it, but to activate nerve endings in their paws which help them identify what they are eating.



Did You Know?

Many marine animals including lobsters, fish, and seals, use hydrodynamic reception, an adaptation that enables them to track prey by the disturbances made as they move through water. Being able to sense such disturbances is useful for hunting and to identify potential threats.



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Hearing

- Hearing is our ability to perceive sounds.
- Humans and animals have an auditory system which helps us detect vibrations and hear sounds.
- Ears are auditory organs.
- Vibrations are transmitted through a medium such as air.

Wolves Hearing and Howls

- Wolves can hear as far as six miles away in the forest and ten miles in the open. Wolves can hear greater frequencies than humans. They use howling to communicate with each other over large distances and as a tool when they hunt.



Did You Know?

The greater wax moth's tiny ears provide it with better hearing than any other living thing. Its ears are 0.02 inches across, and can detect frequencies as high as 300 kilohertz.



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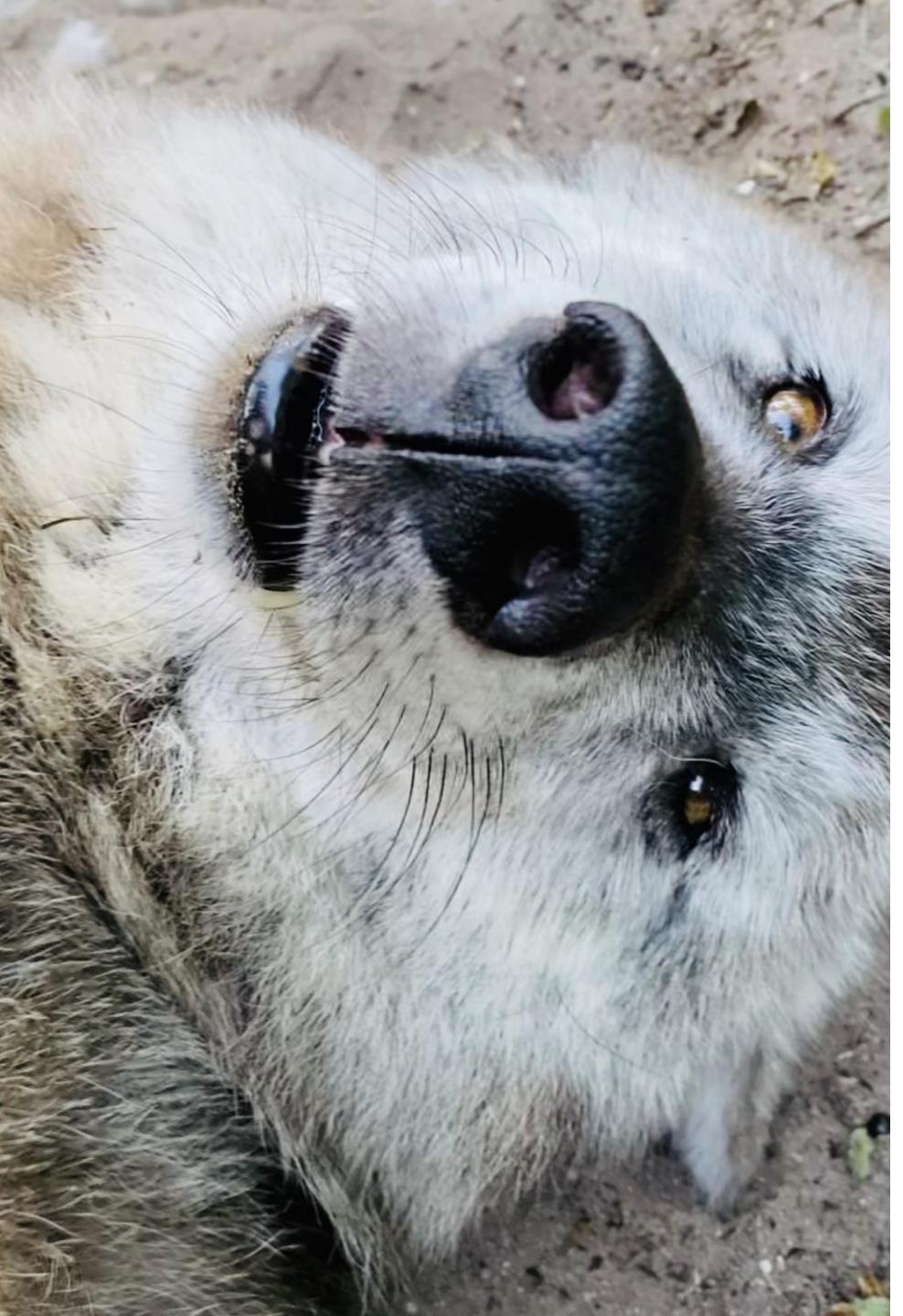


Smell

- The sense of smell is also called olfaction.
- The nose also helps us taste things
- Most animals have a better sense of smell than humans



- The 300 million olfactory receptors in a dog's nose provide canines the ability to smell things far better than the 6 million or so receptors in a human's nose
- A wolf can smell about **100 times greater** than humans. They use this sense of smell to hunt and to identify threats in their environment. **Wolves** have a **higher** level of **scent** recognition than dogs.



On The Trail of A Scent

- By smell alone wolves can locate prey, other pack members or enemies. Using smell can tell a wolf if other wolves were in the territory, if they were male or female, and how recently they visited.
- The wolf has several specialized glands, which put out a scent that is as individualistic as human fingerprints. This scent is used by wolves like a personal calling card. They use these glands to mark boundaries and to mark trails. These "Scent Stations" are often 100 yards long.
- Panthers use scent marking to keep intruders out of their territory. The smell of their urine is enough to keep many types of intruders away.



Smell This...

-
- Wolves use scents to communicate with packmates. They scent rub on items in the environment so that pack mates can identify where they have been.
 - Foxes hold a smelly odor from scent glands. Foxes wear their smell to distinguish themselves, like a bad perfume.
 - Coyotes use the smell of urine to mark their territories.



Smell In Canines (Wolves and Dogs)

- Canine smell is so acute because a dog's nose splits the flow of incoming air into separate streams—with one dedicated solely to smell.
- A dog's brain is also specially designed to make sense of the smells.

Think About...

- **How do humans use dogs' incredible sense of smell?**
- **How would your life change, for better or for worse, if your nose were as sensitive as a dog's nose?**
- **How do dogs experience the world through smell?**





Photo: Britt

Taste

Taste is the sense we use to detect the taste of food and other substances.

- Taste is also called gustation,
- Taste buds are the sensory organs on the tongue's upper surface.
- In humans the different parts of the tongue detect distinct flavors: front for salty and sweet, back for bitter, and sides for sour.



To taste something we first must be able to smell it.



Canines also have taste receptors for salty, bitter, sweet, and acidic. Felines (cats) do not respond to sweetness.



Sight

- Sight is our ability to see and is often referred to as vision.
- Eyes are the visual sensory organs of the human body.
- Other animals, birds, and fish also see through their eyes.



Sight

- A panther's excellent vision enables it to find and hunt its prey at night

A photograph of a woman with blonde hair tied up in a bun, wearing a pink tank top and blue jeans, kneeling down and petting a large, light-colored wolf. The wolf is leaning its head against her hand. A chain-link fence is visible in the background.

At
Shy Wolf Sanctuary
one of our favorite senses is
touch. Touch lets us
show our animals how
much
we love and
care for them.



Use what you
know to fill in
each blank
below.

- At Shy Wolf a raccoon uses his _____ to examine his food.
- To taste something we first must be able to _____ it.
- Sometimes wolves rub against things to leave their _____ for their pack ates to find.
- Foxes are curious and examine things in their environment using their _____.
- A panther has excellent vision which helps it find its prey at _____.

Show What You Know.

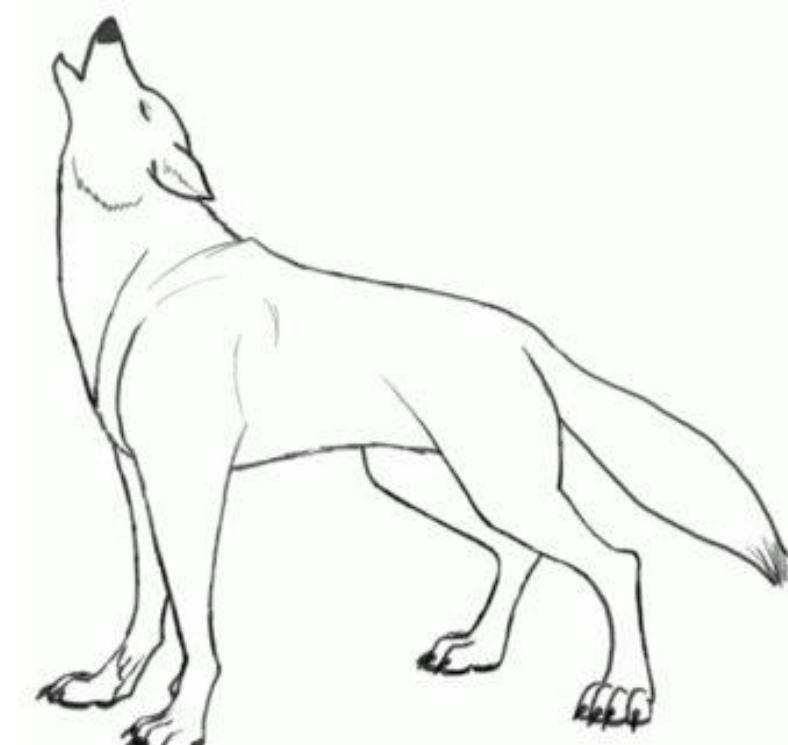
- **Choose one of the senses.**
- **Draw a picture of one the animals at Shy Wolf using that sense.**
- **Write a paragraph describing how the animal uses that sense for survival.**

EXAMPLE:

1. Choose a sense

Hearing

2. Draw a picture.



3. Write a paragraph describing how the animal uses its sense for survival.

Resources

- Sense Organs Facts & Worksheets: <https://kidskonnect.com> -
KidsKonnect, January 7, 2019
- Wild Florida Airboats <https://blog.wildfloridairboats.com/we-know-what-the-fox-says-but-you-dont-know-how-bad-he-smells#:~:text=Like%20skunks%2C%20foxes%20secrete%20a,perfume%20than%20a%20stink%20bomb!>
- Humane Society, Wildlife Land Trust
<http://www.wildlifelandtrust.org/wildlife/>