

Mystery Veggies

Use your sense of touch to solve a veggie mystery!

Things you'll need

- a few fruits or vegetables (2 of each if possible)
- a mystery container
- Paper
- drawing and coloring tools

Mystery Container Options

- a paper or fabric bag
- a wide mouth jar put inside an old, adult sock
- a box with a hand-sized hole

Suggested Grades

2-7

Time

30-45 minutes

Subjects

- Art
- English Language Arts
- Science

Part 1: Observe and Record

Most humans use their eyes to do most of their observing. For food, we also often use smell and taste. But in this activity, we're going to use touch!

1. Have someone else put veggies into your mystery containers. (If you know what they are, it's not a mystery!)
2. Use your sense of touch to explore one of the veggies. Try not to just guess what it is - get to know it as an individual! Where are its bumps, curves, wrinkles, rough edges, corners? Is it soft, hard, fluffy, wet, dry? Is it the same all the way around?
 - a. Try to just make Observations (things you can tell about something using evidence from your senses), not Inferences (conclusions you can reach based on evidence, prior knowledge, and reasoning).
3. On one side of your paper, write at least 10 words to describe your veggie. Write as many as you can!
4. Draw a picture of your veggie! Include all those individual features you observed.
5. Repeat for each veggie you have!

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Part 2: Solve the Mystery

On the farm, we have students use their descriptions and drawings to find their veggie growing on the farm. If you're growing a veggie garden, you can do the same thing!

If you have two of each veggie, you can try matching your picture (easier) or your list of words (harder) to the extra veggies that didn't go into the mystery containers.

Or if you're doing this with someone in your house, or with a friend over video, you can take turns reading your lists of words or sharing pictures and seeing if you can guess each other's veggie!



Part 3: Create

- Use the descriptions you wrote to write a poem about your veggie. Perhaps a haiku or an acrostic based on the vegetable's name!
- Make an illustration to accompany your poem. Just like in your sketch, include those things about your veggie that made it unique!