

GETTING STARTED

AN INTRODUCTION WAYS OF KNOWING: THE SENSES

Science Alberta Foundation is pleased to present this Science-in-a-Crate program in your community!

The word “science” comes from the Latin word “scire” which means, “to know” or “ways of knowing.” From an Aboriginal perspective, “science” or “ways of knowing” the world is not a separate subject but something that is part of life. Stories, songs and ceremonies are important expressions of Aboriginal “scientific knowledge.” They instruct on how to maintain a balance within the natural world and us. They teach about both the physical and spiritual world.

Ways of Knowing: The Senses explores the scientific phenomena behind each of the senses and relates it to Aboriginal ways of understanding and relating to the natural world. Sight, sound, touch, smell and taste were all used in their everyday life. Although the science behind these senses is the same, the things they saw, heard, touched, smelled or tasted were very significant to the Aboriginal people and their culture.

Ways of Knowing: The Senses was designed for children aged 6 to 8 years and to meet the science curriculum learner outcomes for grade one and grade three. We recommend teacher and/or volunteer support for grade one students and where student-reading levels require assistance.

This activity guide will provide the background information necessary for teaching about the senses at the Division I level as well as detailed instructions and answers for each activity. The activity topics are as follows:

Activity 1	The Beat of the Drum (pg 21)	Vibrations
Activity 2	Colour and Dyes (pg 23)	Primary colours
Activity 3	Getting Vocal (pg 25)	Vibrations, producing sound
Activity 4	Using Our Senses (pg 27)	Senses
Activity 5	Changing Pitch (pg 29)	Pitch
Activity 6	Eye-balling it (pg 31)	Sense of sight
Activity 7	How Sound Travels (g 33)	Sound travelling