

Wildlife Senses

Ideas under the topic can include:

KEY STAGE 1:

- Explore how human senses may vary to those of animals.
- Find animals with different sorts of eyes. Discuss their varying size, position and when they are commonly open/closed due to sleep.
- Find as many different shapes of ears as possible. Discuss reasons for the different shapes.
- Compare the different sounds the animals make. Does the sound vary if the animal seems happy or sad?
- Observe the different foods animals eat.
- Draw pictures of the teeth of some of the animal and discuss how this may effect what food they may eat.

KEY STAGE 2:

- Look at the role of the senses in animal survival.
- Choose an animal and make a chart drawing their nose, eyes, ears, teeth and the part of the body they use for touch.
- Compare animal senses to humans' senses. Which animals are we most alike.
- Explore sight signals that the animals show and suggest reasons for them. E.g. Facial expressions to show aggression under threat (Monkeys), gestures and postures (threatened aggressive feather ruffling by Owls) and dances and displays (threatened Camels foot stamping)
- Colour changes (breeding plumage of male birds)
- Find examples of animals that give off scent signals.
- Research and discuss the important role of smell for nocturnal animals.
- List some examples of the way animals' noses have adapted to improve their sense of smell. E.g. Elephants long trunk, Ruffed Lemurs wet noses and Snakes forked tongue.
- Compose a chart to show which animals self groom or groom others, the part of the body used in grooming and the area of the body groomed.
- Observe the diet of the animals. Categorise them into Herbivores, Carnivores, Omnivores and Scavengers. Discuss the link between the type of teeth each group has and the food they eat.
- Produce a basic food chain to show how animals eat in the wild.
- Look at the role of camouflage in the food chain. Draw examples of different kinds of camouflaged skin/coats. Which animals can change their colour according to their environment/or whether they are under threat.

To support the topic of "Wildlife Senses", Paradise Wildlife Park has to offer:

1. A wide range of different animal species, in an interactive setting that enables the children to fully observe the full range of animal senses!
2. Explanatory signs giving information about the animals scent signals, taste in food and sleeping habits.
3. Pre booked educational talks. Allowing the children a question and answer session and a chance to see a selection of animals up close.