

Smelly Facts!

Our noses are amazing. We can smell so many brilliant smells around us. From freshly cut grass to the smell of bread cooking in the oven. There are so many smells around us. Our noses are made up of two holes called nostrils. When we breathe in, the air goes up our nose and into our lungs. Inside our noses are little hairs that catch any dirt or pollen before it reaches our lungs.



Poorly Noses!

Sometimes, our noses can become sore or runny. This can happen if you have allergies or a cold. You can often take some medicine to make you feel better and help your sore and swollen nose. Nosebleeds can happen if the air is dry or you are hit on your nose. They are not serious and often get better after a few minutes.

Special Noses!

Birds normally have a bad sense of smell. They use their eyes to look for food. However, an albatross has an excellent sense of smell and looks for food by flying over the sea. It has an extra nose on top of its beak to help it find some dinner. It can hunt for food even when it is dark.



Dogs also have a great sense of smell. They use their noses to sniff and investigate the world around them. Some dogs are used to help find dangerous things like chemicals. These dogs are called 'sniffer dogs' and they work with the police to help keep people safe. One kind of dog, a bloodhound, can even smell when people are poorly.

Working Together



Our sense of smell works together with our taste buds to help us to enjoy the food that we are eating. Some scientists believe that our sense of sight can also affect our sense of smell. When we see red colours, we think it will taste of strawberries and when we see green colours, it will taste minty. Some experiments show that when you close your eyes, you smell and taste a completely different flavour!

Smelly Facts! Questions

1. What do we have inside our noses?

2. When do nosebleeds happen?

3. Which animal has an extra nose on its beak?

4. Which type of dog can smell when people are poorly?

5. Which two senses are important when you eat your food?

6. What job does a 'sniffer dog' do?

Smelly Facts! Answers

1. What do we have inside our noses?

We have tiny hairs inside our noses.

2. When do nosebleeds happen?

Nosebleeds happen when the air is dry or we are hit on the nose.

3. Which animal has an extra nose on its beak?

An albatross has an extra nose on top of its beak.

4. Which type of dog can smell when people are poorly?

A bloodhound can smell when people are poorly.

5. Which two senses are important when you eat your food?

Sense of smell and taste are important when you are eating.

6. What job does a 'sniffer dog' do?

Helps police officers to keep people safe by smelling out dangerous chemicals.

Smelly Facts!

Human noses contain special cells that help us to smell. Whether it is a delicious cake baking or some stinky horse manure, we can smell it all! Scientists use a special word to describe our sense of smell which is 'olfaction'.

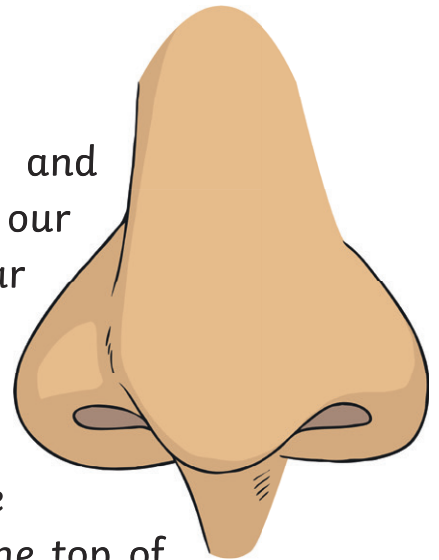


Our noses have little hairs in them which help to trap dust and other particles from reaching our lungs and making us poorly. At the opening to our nose, we have two nostrils which are separated by a tough bit of skin. Air travels in through our nostrils when we breathe. The air passes up and then down to the lungs. As it moves up our nose it is warmed (or cooled), so that it matches our body temperature.

Our lungs then use the oxygen from the air around us to help us breathe. When we breathe out, we release carbon dioxide into the air. This useful gas is used by trees and plants to help them grow. Luckily, they put more oxygen back into the air for us to breathe.

Poorly noses!

Sometimes our noses need a bit of care and attention. When we have allergies or a cold, our noses can become runny. This is when a clear liquid comes out of our nose and we need to use a tissue to wipe it away. When the air is dry or you are hit in the nose, sometimes you can get a nosebleed. Although these are messy, they are not serious and pinching the top of your nose whilst dabbing with a tissue usually helps to sort it.





Sniffer dogs

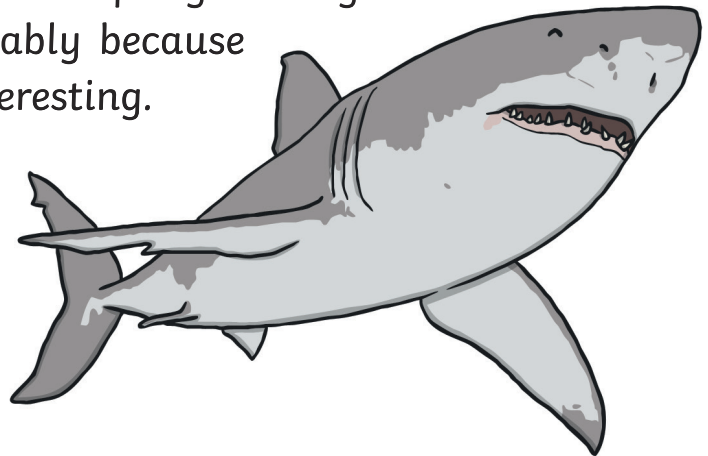
Some animals have an amazing sense of smell. Dogs are regularly used as 'sniffer dogs' to help the police when finding dangerous chemicals and substances. The dogs are trained to sniff carefully and then sit next to a smell that could be dangerous. This allows the policeman to remove the danger so that it doesn't hurt anyone.

Champion sniffers!

Many animals have a good sense of smell to help them hunt for food. Bears have enlarged nostrils that give them a sense of smell five times better than ours. Sharks are able to use their sense of smell to find a tasty meal. They can smell a drop of blood in the water from over a mile away! Snakes are also great at using their tongue to their advantage. Strangely, they actually smell using their tongue so when you see them rapidly sticking their tongue in and out, it is probably because they can smell something interesting.

Amazing Fact

It is traditional for Māori people in New Zealand to press their noses together as a greeting.



Smelly Facts! Questions

1. What is the job of the hairs inside your nose?

2. What uses the carbon dioxide that we breathe out?

3. How would you know a 'sniffer dog' had found a dangerous substance?

4. From how far away can a shark smell one drop of blood?

5. What can cause your nose to run?

6. Who press their noses together as a greeting?

7. Why can bears smell better than us?

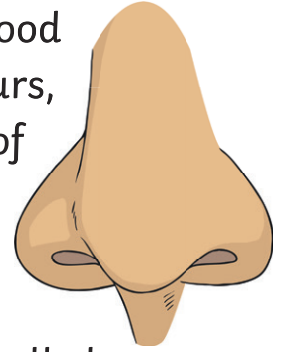
8. What is your favourite and least favourite smell? Why?

Smelly Facts! Answers

1. What is the job of the hairs inside your nose?
The hairs catch dust and other particles from going into your lungs.
2. What uses the carbon dioxide that we breathe out?
Trees and plants use the carbon dioxide that we breathe out.
3. How would you know a 'sniffer dog' had found a dangerous substance?
The 'sniffer dog' sits down next to the dangerous substance to let the police officer know.
4. From how far away can a shark smell one drop of blood?
A shark can smell a drop of blood from over a mile away.
5. What can cause your nose to run?
Allergies or a cold can cause your nose to run.
6. Who press their noses together as a greeting?
Maori people press their noses together as a greeting.
7. Why can bears smell better than us?
Bears have enlarged nostrils that help them smell things better.
8. What is your favourite and least favourite smell? Why?
Varied answers.

Smelly Facts!

Smelling helps us in many ways. It first makes our food taste better. We can't really taste that many flavours, but with the help of smell we can taste thousands of different things. Also, smell helps to warn us from bad things like rotten food or smoke from fire. At the entrance to our nose are two nostrils. These are



separated by a piece of cartilage called the 'nasal septum', which is stiffer than muscle but more flexible than bone. Inside our nostrils are tiny hairs that help to catch pollen and dust from entering our lungs.



When we breathe in, the air travels up the nostrils and down into our lungs. We need the oxygen from the air to breathe. When we breathe out, we release carbon dioxide back into the air. Olfaction is

the word used to describe our sense of smell.

Amazing Animals!

Dogs have an amazing sense of smell, often being used by the police and doctors to help sniff out dangerous chemicals or illnesses.

Dogs have wet noses that allow them to capture all of the smells around them like glue. There is also a unique way of identifying a dog. Humans use finger prints as each person's finger print is different, but dogs have unique nose prints. Some breeders will even take a print of a puppy's nose to ensure that they are insured properly.



The star-nosed mole has a very strange nose with 22 tentacles on it. It uses its nose to quickly find small worms and fish, in less than one-quarter of a second.

The elephant nose fish lives in the muddy waters of Africa. It uses its nose to hunt for food like most animals but strangely its nose is actually a chin that helps it to find its way in the dark.

Nose problems

Sometimes people have a problem with their nose that needs medical help. Some people suffer with allergies which means that some particles, like pollen, irritate their nose. The person will often need to take medication to help them control their allergies.

Anosmia is a condition when someone is unable to smell anything. Unfortunately, there is no cure for this but people who have anosmia usually use their other senses to help them.



Smelly Facts! Questions

1. What is the cartilage that separates our nostrils called?

2. What is the technical word for your sense of smell?

3. How many tentacles does a star-nosed mole have?

4. What is the unique way of identifying dogs?

5. What is the name of the condition where you cannot smell anything?

6. What affect might pollen have on some people?

7. How quickly can the star-nosed mole find a worm or fish?

8. Describe your favourite smell.

Smelly Facts! Answers

1. What is the cartilage that separates our nostrils called?
The cartilage that separates our nostrils is called 'nasal septum'.
2. What is the technical word for your sense of smell?
Olfaction is the technical word for your sense of smell.
3. How many tentacles does a star-nosed mole have?
A star-nosed mole has 22 tentacles on its nose.
4. What is the unique way of identifying dogs?
Dogs have unique nose prints, each one is unique!
5. What is the name of the condition where you cannot smell anything?
Anosmia is the condition where you can't smell anything.
6. What affect might pollen have on some people?
Some people have a pollen allergy and it can cause them to have a runny nose.
7. How quickly can the star-nosed mole find a worm or fish?
A star-nosed mole takes less than quarter of a second to find a worm or fish.
8. Describe your favourite smell.
Varied answers.