



## Sensory Safari

How well does a tiger smell? Or how do giraffes see? Test out your own senses and compare how our animals see, hear, and smell the world. We'll explore animal senses today on our own sensory safari!

**Objectives:** Campers will be able to:

- Understand that anyone can participate in science
- Observations are important to science

**Materials:**

- Recyclable materials for building
- Tape
- 2 tin cans
- Yarn or string
- Nail or other object to puncture cans
- Snake craft print out
- Coloring utensils
- Scissors

**Challenge:** Create a new invention that will allow a human to sense the world as an animal senses it - which animal sense do you admire? Which do you think would be helpful in your life? Keep this challenge in mind while you do the other activities.

**Activity 1:**

Eye spy! Go for a walk in an outdoor space and play a game of eye spy. "I spy with my little eye, something that's..... green? Brown? Rough? Smooth?" What do you spy?

**Activity 2:** Smell matching game! Pick out some smells that are unique that can be placed on a cotton ball (essential oils, cooking extracts, perfume or cologne all work well). Place each scent on 2 cotton balls then mix them up. Now use your sense of smell to try and find the matching pair of smells.

Animals use their sense of smell to find their food and to avoid predators. Most mammals have an excellent sense of smell including the polar bear! Polar bears use their sense of smell to find their prey, seals.

**Activity 3:** Experiment with sounds by making a tin can telephone! Grab two aluminum cans and some yarn. With adult help safely puncture the bottom of the can and tie the string through it using a knot to keep it in place, do the same with the other can. Now share a message back and forth.

This works because sound travels in waves. Talking causes little vibrations, when you speak into the can those vibrations travel through the can into the string and into the other can.

Animals have adaptations to communicate with each other like how parrots can vocalize very loudly to communicate, or how animals like the rhino have large ears to help pick up any sound vibrations.

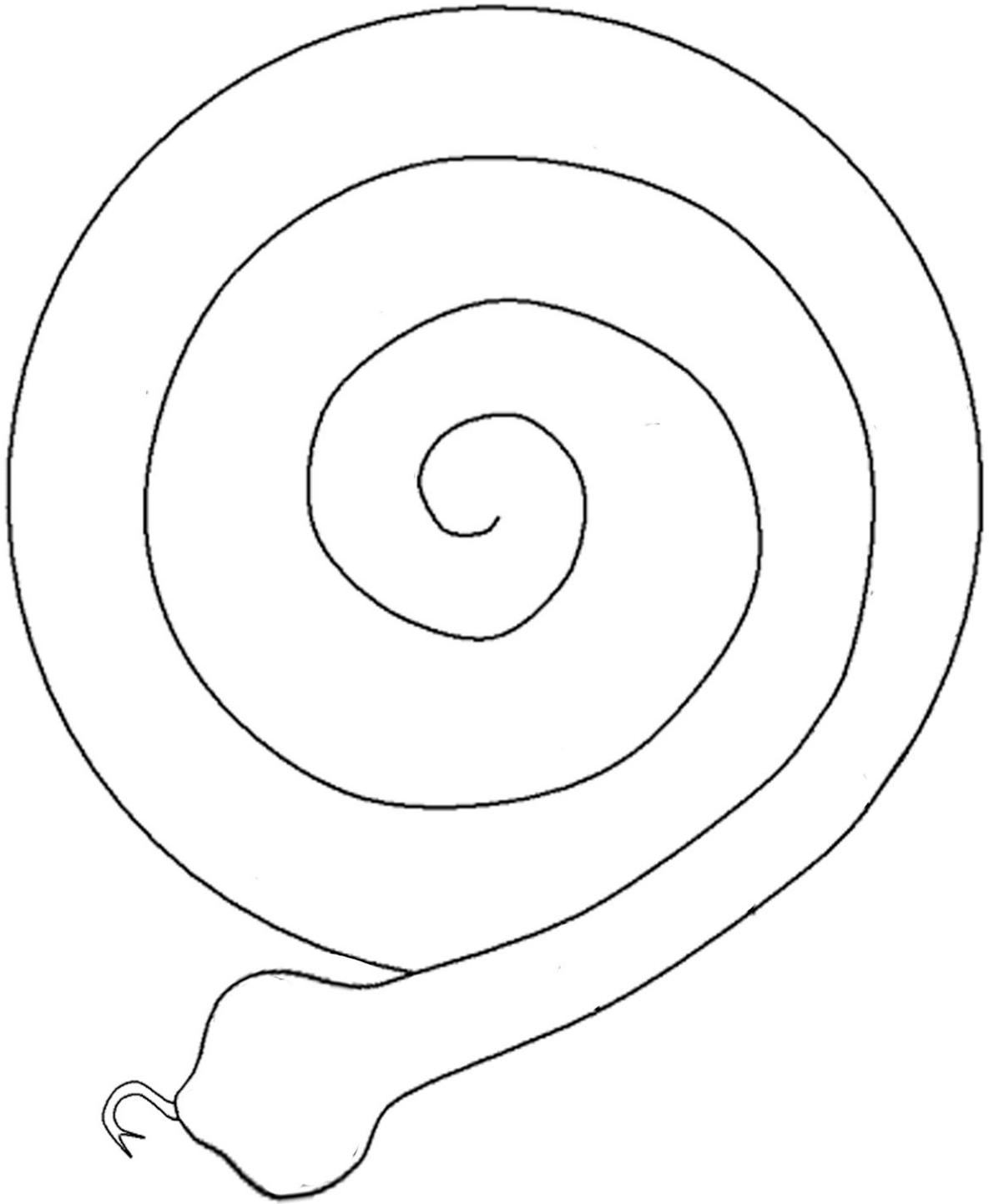


*(1) Tin can telephone example (2) Macaws use their loud vocalizations to communicate (3) Rhinos have dish shaped ears to help them pick up vibrations and have an excellent sense of hearing.*

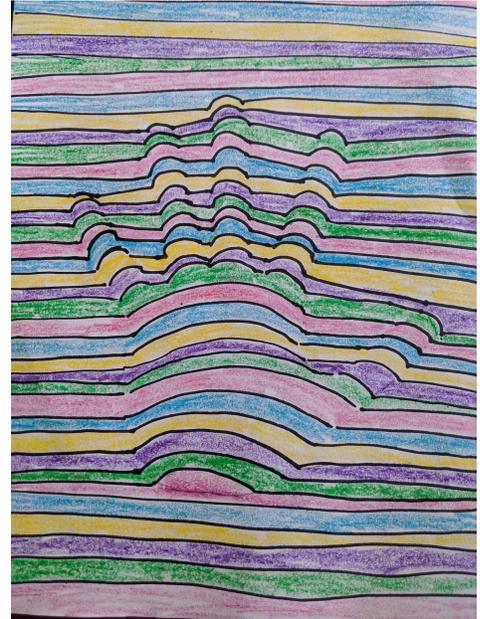
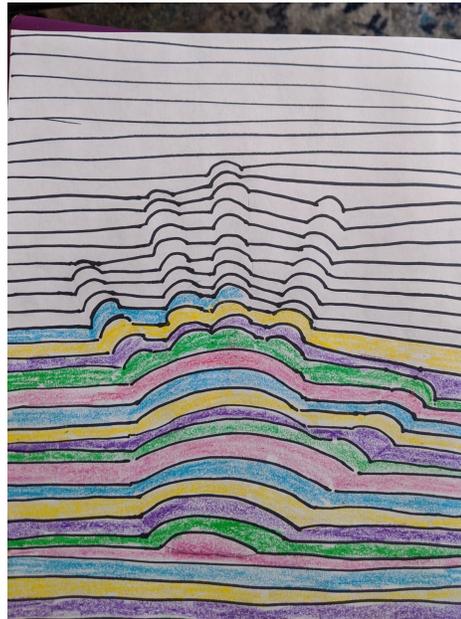
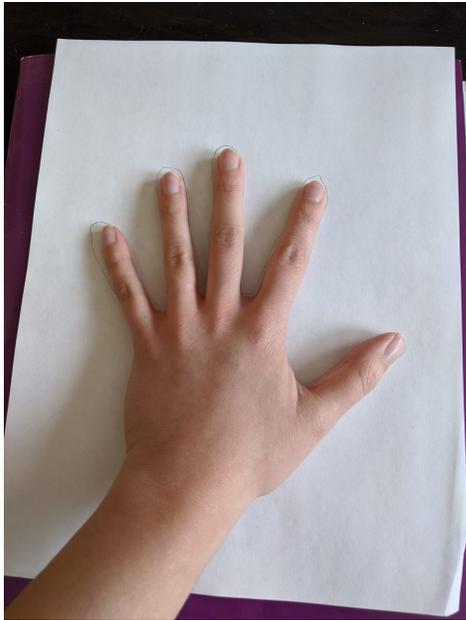
**Activity 4:** Snakes have an amazing sense of smell using their Jacobson organ. Make your own snake craft! Snakes like many other animals often use camouflage to blend in with their surroundings so predators cannot see them. Pick a space in your house or outdoors and print out and color your snake so that it can camouflage in that space. Cut the snake out and take a picture of your snake camouflaging and share it with the zoo (tag us on instagram or facebook! @henryvilaszoo)



*(1) Lemur leaf frog using its green coloration to blend in with the leaves (2) Maizy the red rat snake sticking her tongue out to smell*



**Activity 5:** Optical illusions. Humans rely mainly on sight, but sometimes we can't trust what we see! Create this optical illusion craft at home! Take a piece of paper and trace your hand. Then draw a line on the paper, curving where your handprint is. Do this all along the paper then color it in to create a unique optical illusion.



**Challenge:** having watched our zoo at home videos and doing some of these sensory activities work on your challenge! Use whatever materials you have laying around your house to build your creation. Be sure to add in as much detail as you can. We would love to see what you made! Share your creation with us by taking a picture or video of it and tagging us on facebook or instagram (@henryvilaszoo).