

CHAPTER 12	Launch Lab: Sense It	BLM 12.0.1
HANDOUT		

Purpose: Identify familiar objects while one or more of your senses is inhibited.

Safety Precautions

- Do not bring food meant for consumption into the laboratory.
- Do not taste any sample (you will use only the senses of touch and smell in this exercise).
- Before the exercise begins, alert your teacher to any allergies you have.

Materials

- new earplugs
- samples of unidentified but familiar objects supplied by your teacher
- blindfold

Procedure

1. Work with a partner. One partner will be the tester, and the other partner will be the subject.
2. The subject will use earplugs and a blindfold to block the senses of hearing and sight.
3. The tester will acquire samples of the unknowns provided by the teacher.
4. Now, with the subject gently pinching his or her nose shut to block the sense of smell, the tester will provide the first sample for the subject to hold.
5. The subject should use the sense of touch to identify the unknown sample, and then the subject should use the sense of smell if the sample remains unknown. The tester should record how and if the subject is able to identify the sample. Use the space below to record your results.
6. Repeat steps 4 and 5 using the other samples. Then switch roles, and repeat the activity with another set of samples.

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Analysis

1. Which samples were the most difficult to identify? Which samples were the easiest to identify?
2. Which senses would you normally use to identify the samples?
3. You probably found it easier to identify the samples using a number of senses, rather than only one. Which senses would you use to
 - a) check if milk is sour
 - b) remove stones from a bag of dry lentils
 - c) stand on one leg without falling over
4. Explain why integration is important for interpreting sensory information.