

Mystery Food Activity

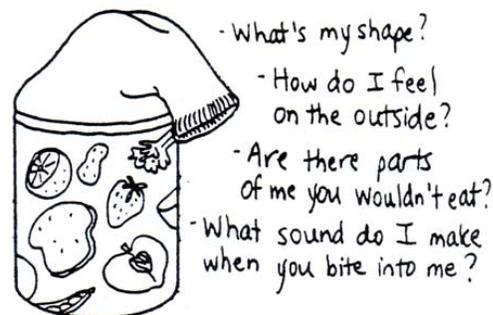
(Preschool to Grade 4)

Overview

Students will have the opportunity to explore food and identify its sensory properties through a classic, engaging activity. Foods common to BC are best suited for this activity.

Estimated time: ~ 30 minutes

Estimated food cost: \$10-15
(depends on chosen ingredients)



Learning Outcomes

By the end of the lesson, the students may be able to:

- Develop first-hand experiences with food
- Identify characteristics of food
- Describe the sensory qualities of food
- Demonstrate a willingness to taste new or commonly consumed food

Materials

- Mystery Food Can (instructions follow)
- Mystery Food (enough for all your students to sample)

To make the can

- Remove one end from a large, clean empty can
- Cut off the top portion of a sock
- Secure the sock along the edge of the can using masking tape
- Decorate the can with colourful pictures

Procedures

1. Have students identify the mystery food
 - Place the mystery food in the can. Begin by using familiar foods and progress to less familiar ones.
 - Explain to students that they will be identifying the food in the mystery can by touching it, smelling it and listening to the sound it makes by shaking the can. Tell them that they will have a chance to taste it after solving the mystery.

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- Guide the exploration by having one student at a time put a hand into the mystery can. Ask the student a question about the size, shape, texture, sound, temperature, colour (inside and outside) etc. of the mystery food. After everyone has had a turn, ask the students to identify the food. Remove it from the can for everyone to see.
2. Have students taste the mystery food
- Allow students the opportunity to taste the food. You may want to tie this in with a cooking activity. Note: It is important to be aware of any food allergies your students may have.

More information for Teachers

To offset food costs, find out about [mini food grants](#).

Refer to [Kitchen Equipment for your Classroom](#) for more preparation and food safety tips.

Curriculum links

This lesson supports the Big Ideas and Learning Standards in the Physical and Health Education [BC curriculum](#) and can also link to other subject areas.

Background

The more often you expose children to a food, the more inclined they are to like it. But don't pressure or reward children for trying new foods. Research shows that children who are pressured or rewarded when trying a new food are less likely to go back to it than children who are simply exposed to it and allowed to decide on their own whether or not to eat it.

Want to do more nutrition education with your class?

Explore our other [lesson plans](#) or book a [free 1-hour workshop](#).