

How do dogs explore their world?

Charlie and Sophie are curious puppies who love to explore! They use their five senses to learn about the world around them: smell, sight, hearing, taste, and touch.

Let's see how dogs use their senses.

Smell

Dogs have super noses! They can smell things much better than we can. This helps them find food and makes them great helpers. Can you think of a time when your nose helped you find something yummy?

Question: What smell do you like the most? The least?



Hearing

Dogs have amazing ears! They can hear sounds from far away and move their ears to catch sounds from different directions. Dogs use this sense to listen for the barks, growls, or whines of other dogs and to stay safe.

Activity: Close your eyes and listen. What sounds can you hear?

Sight

Dogs have sharp eyes that help them see in the dark. They're really good at spotting things that move. Dogs use sight to find food, play, and communicate with other dogs. They can tell a dog is friendly when they see a wagging tail!

Question: Can you make a happy face without saying a word?



Touch

Dogs use their whole body to feel things. They can tell if something is hard or soft, hot or cold. Dogs also use touch to play with friends and let others know how they feel.

Activity: Feel different objects around you. Are they smooth, rough, warm, or cool?

Taste

Dogs love to taste things, but their sense of taste is not as strong as ours. They rely on their super noses to decide what to eat. That's why dogs sometimes eat things that smell good to them but are yucky to us, like rabbit or deer poop! Pretty disgusting, right?

Question: What's your favorite food? Do you think a dog would like it?



Let's Explore Like a Dog!

You can explore the world just like Charlie and Sophie. Try this fun activity:

1. Find a safe spot to sit.
2. Close your eyes and listen. What do you hear?
3. Smell the air. What scents do you notice?
4. Touch the ground or a nearby object. How does it feel?

Imagine you're a dog trying to find your way home. Which sense would help you the most? If you could choose, which dog sense would you exchange for your own?