

Smell

Sight

Hearing

Taste

Touch

## The senses in the animal kingdom

Animals use their senses to interact with nature. With their senses, they can see light, color, and motion. They can hear sounds and distinguish flavors and smells. They can feel vibrations, cold, and heat. The brain interprets the information and decides on the right response: fighting or fleeing, eating or not eating, hiding, taking shelter or cooling off... They use their senses to adapt perfectly to their surroundings.



## Tasting with... the feet!

The catfish is the champion taster: its entire body, especially its "whiskers," are covered by thousands of flavor detectors. Flies can detect what a food tastes like just by standing on it, since they taste with their feet. Butterflies can also detect flavors with their feet. They use this to find nectar to eat and to determine the right leaves where they can lay their eggs: the caterpillars that hatch from these eggs will have food to eat from the start of their lives without any effort.







## There aren't just five senses...

Some animals are lacking one or more senses, but they compensate with other senses that we cannot even imagine. Snakes, for example, are deaf: rattlesnakes cannot even hear the noise they make with their own tails. However, they can detect infrared rays, which means that they can “see” heat. This is how, even at midnight in the desert, they can distinguish whether what is in front of them is a cold stone or a poor, frightened mouse. Irene and Bruno are now experts on animals’ five senses... Wait: five or more?!

