

Investigate



Teacher's Introduction
Inspector Paws Science Enquiry Resource
For 7 - 11 Year Olds

For the UK

Inspector Paws Science Enquiry Resource For 7-11 Year Olds For The UK

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The following resources can also be downloaded from the website:

[Paws Point 1 Exploring The Sense Of Smell](#)

[Paws Point 2 Exploring The Sense Of Taste](#)

[Paws Point 3 Personal Hygiene And Digestion](#)

[Paws Point 4 Exploring The Senses Of Sight And Hearing](#)

[Paws Point 5 Exploring The Sense Of Touch](#)



Introduction

Welcome to 'Inspector Paws' our interactive science resource for primary school pupils. This resource comprises five science activities and four Citizenship/PSHE discussion topics for pupils aged 7 to 11, supported with a five minute film.

The lively and engaging film is the ideal stimulus to get your pupils thinking about everyday science, exploring senses and investigating five Inspector Paws points. The short film follows our top canine investigator Inspector Paws on his morning walk and is packed with lots of information and key facts about dogs and how they use their senses.

Whilst modelling responsible dog ownership for viewers, the film also allows teachers to raise a variety of topical issues such as pollution and road safety, as well as providing activity linked paws points marked with the Inspector's magnifying glass. We recommend that the film clip is watched in its entirety and then replayed and paused as required to introduce each activity.

Contents

The content, as listed below, indicates:

- Curriculum learning outcomes for the activity linked magnifying glass 'Paws Points'
- Possible discussion topics

This resource was specifically created to support pupil comparisons of their senses to that of a dog, building on the lessons learned during Key Stage 1 (P1 to P4) and exploring the science behind our ability to see, hear, smell, taste and touch.

Using This Resource

Each Paws Point section provides a detailed overview of that section with suggestions of how activities can be used or linked to support your science teaching.

Each paws point provides background information, scientific vocabulary, practical activities and support materials for you to select and combine or adapt to suit the age and ability range in your class.

The resource is flexible, in so far as, activities and worksheets can be used independently or together and can be used in any order.

The key learning developed by the resource is that of scientific enquiry, developing thinking and problem solving skills whilst exploring human senses and comparing them to a dog's senses.

Learning Outcomes for Pupils:

As pupils progress through years 3 to 6 (P4 – P7) pupils learn about a wider range of living things, materials and phenomena. They begin to make links between ideas and to explain things using simple models and theories. They apply their knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas to familiar phenomena, everyday things and their personal health. They begin to think about the positive and negative effects of scientific and technological developments on the environment and in other contexts. They carry out more systematic investigations, working on their own and with others. They use a range of reference sources in their work. They talk about their work and its significance, and communicate ideas using a wide range of scientific language, conventional diagrams, charts and graphs.

Scientific Enquiry: Senses

- Smell
- Sight
- Hearing
- Touch
- Taste

Learning About Animals

- Senses
- Digestion
- Disease and vaccination
- Animal communication/information

Litter (PSHE/Citizenship)

- Improving your local environment
- The impact of littering on pets and wildlife

Environment (PSHE/Citizenship)

- Responsible dog ownership
- Traffic pollution
- Noise pollution

Curricula Links:

England Key Stage 2

Sc1 Scientific Enquiry – Ideas and Evidence, Investigative Skills
Sc2 Life Processes and Living Things – Life Processes, Humans and other animals
Sc4 Physical Processes – Light and Sound
Cross-curricular links: En 1, P.E., PSHE, Citizenship, Key Skills

Wales Key Stage 2

Scientific Enquiry – Ideas and Evidence, Investigative Skills
Life Processes and Living Things – Life Processes, Humans and other animals
Physical Processes – Light and Sound
Cross-curricular links: En 1, P.E., Personal and Social Education, Key Skills

Northern Ireland Key Stage 2

The World Around Us
Science and Technology: Living Things
Cross-curricular links: Talking & Listening, Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities, Key Skills, P.E., Personal Development and Mutual Understanding

Scotland Curriculum for Excellence P4 to P7

Science: Life and Cells – Keeping my body healthy, Using my senses
Science: Communications – Light and sound
Cross-curricular links: Listening and Talking, P.E., Personal and Social Education, Core Skills

Each of the topics introduced using the Inspector Paws film can be explored individually or as an extended topic incorporating the sense exploration experiments and activities available.

Cross References To Other Dogs Trust Resources

The Assembly Resource

The film complements the activities available in the following resources, also available to download:

English/Literacy Activities

3 & 7 - a dog's needs
4 - the danger/risks of letting anyone acquire a dog

Maths/Numeracy Activities

1, 5 & 6 - a dog's needs
3 – grooming, 8 – costs

The Inspector Paws film can also be used as an introduction to any of the Dogs Trust classroom resources or as support for pet-related topics. See pg 8 for dog-related topics and pg 9 for a classroom activity about responsible dog ownership.

If you want to find out more about Dogs Trust, please visit www.learnwithdogs.co.uk. Free workshops delivered by our Education Officers are also available to primary schools. They can also bring a doggy friend along to visit you!

Inspector Paws Film Transcript

The following transcript of the film has been provided to support discussion and navigation by indicating where the activity linked magnifying glass 'paws points' occur:

This is my home. I'm Inspector Paws, top canine investigator from Dogs Trust...

Psst... in here... aha! Glad you could make it, you are just in time to join me on my morning patrol. Come along then, no time to waste, lets get ready – this will make sure we don't lose each other... you can see I've got her name, address and number on this tag in case we get separated.

Now then... my walks don't just keep me fit, they are the best opportunity I get to pick up the neighbourhood news, like all dogs, nose first!

I've got a cold wet nose with a sense of smell that's thousands of times more powerful than yours.

Two sharp ears, capable of hearing a much greater range of sounds up to 4 times further away than your ears.

Two bright eyes for keen night vision, perfect for detecting the slightest movement....

Four fast paws capable of accelerating to speeds of up to 36 miles an hour.....

A shaggy coat to protect my sensitive skin from changes in temperature, prickly plants and unwelcome bugs...

And a nice long tail to let you know how I'm feeling.

Right, all present and correct....that's the equipment check over, let's go!

Door opens: (sniff) ahh. By smelling the ground and things along my way, I can tell who has passed by...and how long ago. A dog's ability to identify and follow scents is often used by humans to help them find people who are lost, track criminals' movements or locate particular substances.

(Sniffs) Ah..I can smell here that Bernie, Jack and Harvey are already out and about this morning... and Frodo is still feeling a bit under the weather....scent marking is common in many animals, especially males, who compete for territory and female attention (laugh).

Paws Point 1: Exploring The Sense Of Smell

Ah... (sniffs...) ah... now what's this? Smells good...I'll just take a bite...Maybe not. Rubbish is always interesting but I'm never allowed to eat it. I could choke on it or become ill. Us dogs have a different sense of taste to our owners. We usually decide to eat something by how it smells! So you should always put your rubbish in the bin.

Paws Point 2: Exploring The Sense Of Taste

PSHE (PSE) Discussion Topic: Litter And The Environment

Hold on, best stop here I think (sniff). Yuck, the road is so noisy and smelly...seeing wheels and bumpers whizzing past just gets me all confused. Roads can be very dangerous. We dogs should always cross them on a lead with our owner. Never on our own!

PSHE (PSE) Discussion Topic: Road Safety

Wait a minute... What's this? Someone's owner didn't pick up...naughty! Let's see...hmm...smells like Mitsy's got more puppies on the way (laugh)...hmm....poo's really interesting. From it, I can tell what kind of animal you are, what you've had to eat, and how long ago you were here. Best clear this one up though, and have a word with Mitsy's owner....in the wild, animals use poo to find prey and avoid predators. Some dogs even roll in it to cover their own scent so other animals can't smell them coming.....here though, the best place is a bin...you can find them everywhere.

Paws Point 3: Exploring Personal Hygiene And Digestion

Bow-wow-yeeouch! I really hate those things.....they make my ears hurt. If you think something's noisy imagine how it is for me with my super sensitive hearing...that's why dogs don't like high pitched shrieking alarms or loud bangs like fireworks make.

PSHE (PSE) Discussion Topic: Noise Pollution, Pets and Fireworks

My favourite place the park!

I have to wait for my owner to check that it is safe to let me off the lead.

Citizenship/PSHE (PSE) Discussion Topic: Control of Dogs Act/Safety Around Dogs

Yayay!!

I am a big dog and I need to have long run to keep me fit and healthy. Let's go have a look in the long grass. Oooh I love the way grass feels on my paws... and there's a friend to play with! (Sniff) – Hello! Nice to see you again Harvey, I wondered if I would catch you up. Fancy a chase? I'm IT!

Aaah there's my owner – gotta go! Whoah (excited) there's my ball. The minute I see her waving my ball I know its time to play fetch its great exercise and a fun time to share.

All dogs should be trained like me. I remember it was hard learning to return to my owner as a puppy and now it is just good fun.

Paws Point 4: Exploring The Senses Of Sight And Hearing

Time for a breather. (Pant, pant, pant, pant, pant, pant.) Panting helps me cool down and get my breath back before I am back on the case.

Now where's she gone?

Ahhah the lake!

I can't swim very well, so I stay near the edge for a paddle.

That's refreshed my paws!

Goodness! Is that the time already? Better get my lead back on for the journey home, where I look forward to a bit of a tidy up. I love being groomed and stroked. My whole body is sensitive to touch. Dogs use touch to communicate with each other to invite play and express love and affection just like humans.

Paws Point 5: Exploring The Sense Of Touch

After I've been groomed and stroked I enjoy a nice long drink. Us dogs should always have fresh water available, all the time.

Then I settle down for a well needed nap before the afternoon patrol and my dinner, yum. Remember dogs need their own special place to sleep undisturbed.

Remember to stay alert and use all your senses when you're out and about. See you next time!

Topic Overview

Topics explored through activities and discussions linked to the film of Inspector Paws' walk include:

- 1. Scent Marking** – Inspector Paws explains how he picks up the local news by detecting scents and signals from other dogs. The linked activities compare our own sense of smell to the heightened sense of smell in dogs. The linked discussion topic includes responsible dog ownership messages about the importance of neutering to prevent unwanted puppies.
- 2. Food Waste** – Inspector Paws fancies a bite of what smells like food, but is in fact only the empty packaging. The linked activities encourage pupils to explore our sense of taste and how it can be influenced by our sense of smell, as well as comparing our taste to that of a dog. The linked discussion topic prompts pupils to consider the impact of litter on animals as well as the environment, and includes the more general topic of pollution, in particular exploring the effects of the traffic and noise pollution, also experienced by Inspector Paws on his walk.
- 3. Poo** – Inspector Paws recognises that someone has not been responsible in picking up after their dog and thankfully his owner models what should be done. The linked activities raise pupils' awareness of the importance of personal hygiene to prevent disease and their understanding of the digestion process, as well as ensuring their dogs are wormed and vaccinated regularly.
- 4. Ball** – Inspector Paws loves to play with his ball and responds quickly to his owner when he hears his name and sees the ball. The linked activities compare our sense of sight and hearing to that of a dog and the linked discussion topic provides an opportunity to introduce the Control of Dogs Act and asks pupils to consider the importance of training and exercising their dogs, see pages 7 and 9.
- 5. Grooming** – There's nothing better than a bit of TLC (Tender Loving Care) when you return from a long walk. The linked activities explore the purpose of our skin and hair and how this contributes to our sense of touch. Again providing Inspector Paws funky facts to aid the comparison of human touch to that of a dog.

Classroom Activity - Responsible Dog Ownership

You can use the film to help your pupils learn how to be a responsible dog owner. The film models the behaviour of a responsible dog owner in the following ways:

- 1. Identification** – by law, all dogs should have a collar and tag containing the owner's name, address and telephone number. It's a good idea to have your dog micro-chipped too, in case you become separated and your dog loses his tag.
- 2. Responsibility** – dogs have no road sense and should never cross a road without their owner. Your dog should always be on a lead when on or near a road. Always consider the dog's safety as well as your own and be sure to take a responsible adult with you on your walk.
- 3. Poo** – poo is not only smelly and unpleasant, but can carry diseases and should always be picked up and placed responsibly in the bin. Always carry plenty of poo sacks and remember to use designated poo bins where available.
- 4. Control of Dogs Act** – you should always be in control of your dog in a public space so as not to cause anxiety or disturbance to others. Take your dog to training or agility classes to ensure that he/she learns to respond to you when off the lead.
- 5. Play and Exercise** – exercise is as important for your dog as it is for you. So remember to walk your dog regularly at least twice a day and play with him often.
- 6. Grooming and Care** – grooming is an enjoyable experience for your dog and will help you check for fleas, ticks, cuts or skin problems. Dogs with long fur will need more grooming than a short coated breed.
- 7. Food and Drink** – all dogs require access to fresh water throughout the day and one or two regular meals of dog food. Chews can help clean your dog's teeth, but too many biscuits and tit bits will make him fat.
- 8. Sleep** – never touch a sleeping dog. All dogs should have their own bed where they can be by themselves.

Discussion Points:

- Encourage pupils to identify where and how each of these themes are demonstrated as they watch the film.
- Discuss the importance of treating your dog with respect and kindness.