

4th Grade

Day 2

Name _____

Date _____

1. Complete the table.

Quarts	Cups
1	
2	
4	

2. Bonnie's doctor recommended that she drink 2 cups of milk per day. If she buys 3 quarts of milk, will it be enough milk to last 1 week? Explain how you know.

American Government - Get Out the Vote

by ReadWorks



Have you ever heard someone being called an "idiot"? If you have, what they are really being called is "someone who does not vote." The word "idiot" comes from the Greek word *idiotes*. In ancient Greece this was the word for someone who kept to himself. *Idiotes* did not participate in Greece's public life or politics. They did not vote or debate important issues.

Today, voting is the most important way American citizens participate in politics. Citizens can vote for candidates in national and state elections. On the national level, they can vote for the president and members of Congress. On the state and local level, they can vote for the governor, state representatives, state senators, and people like the mayor and city council. Different candidates have different beliefs. People usually vote for the candidate whose beliefs are closest to their own. Most people want a candidate who will represent them and

their beliefs in office.

Only American citizens 18 years of age and older can vote in the United States. Even though voting is a right, citizens also must register to vote beforehand. Registered voters are each assigned a place to vote. This is called your polling place. When Election Day comes, voters go to the place and sign in. This is how the government makes sure that people only vote once in the same election.

The people working at a polling place give voters a ballot. Some ballots look similar to a multiple-choice test. There are little bubbles that you fill in next to the person's name that you want to win. Other ballots are electronic. You choose who you want to vote for directly on a computer screen or by turning levers on a voting machine. Whichever type of ballot your polling place uses, voting is very private. No one should be able to see whom you choose.

Even before you can vote, you can learn about important issues. You can read the newspaper, write a letter to your representative in Congress, and participate in community activities. The important thing is to get involved!

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is a polling place?

- A. a place where you can read the latest political news
- B. the place where you can vote
- C. a sort of political assembly
- D. the piece of paper where you mark your vote

2. The author wrote this passage to

- A. persuade you to vote for someone.
- B. provide information about voting in the U.S.
- C. tell a story about an idiot who didn't vote.
- D. explain voting in Greek government.

3. Based on the passage, which of these statements could best explain why someone would not want to vote for any candidate in an election?

- A. There is no way to learn about the candidates before the election.
- B. They do not want to hurt the other candidates' feelings.
- C. None of the candidates represent their beliefs.
- D. They do not want everyone else knowing who they voted for.

4. Read the following sentence: "People usually vote for the candidate whose beliefs are closest to their own. Most people want a candidate who will represent them and their beliefs in office."

The word **represent** means

- A. to argue with
- B. to replace
- C. to stand for
- D. to complain about

5. This passage is mostly about

- A. differences between paper and electronic ballots.
- B. the difference between local and national elections.
- C. how and why U.S. citizens vote.
- D. similarities between voting in the U.S. and ancient Greece.

6. Describe two rules about how people vote in the U.S.

7. Based on the passage, explain why the author says voting is "the most important way" that citizens are involved in politics.

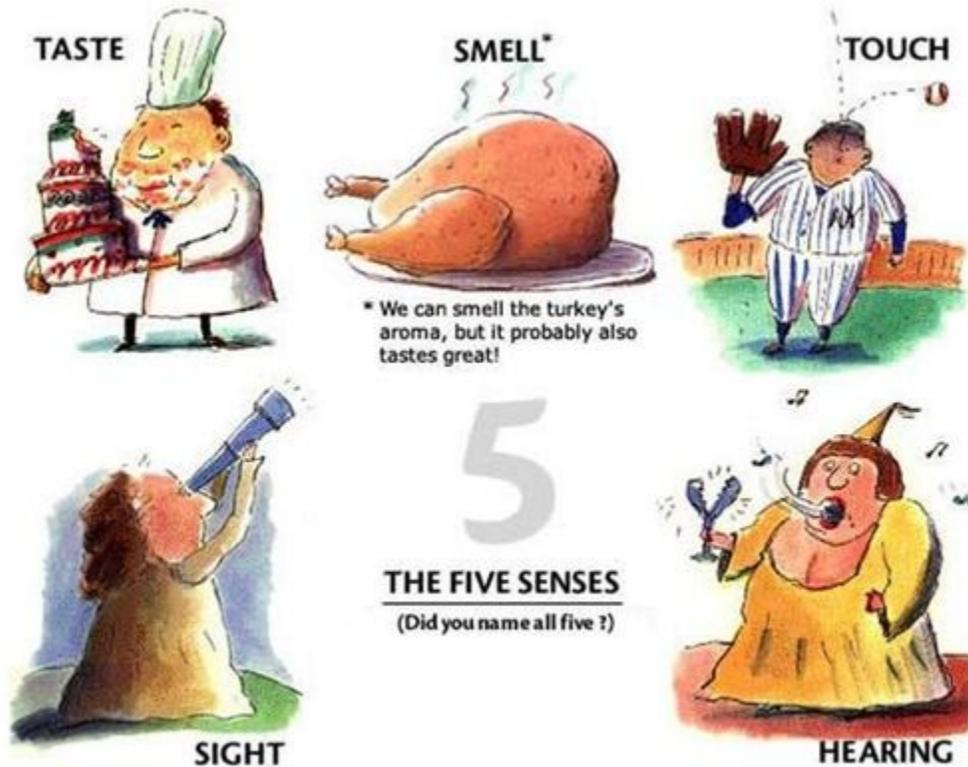
8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

U.S. citizens must register to vote, _____ they can go cast a vote.

- A. because
- B. then
- C. after
- D. otherwise

Sensing the World Around Us

by ReadWorks



All animals have sense receptors, which are organs that receive information from the outside world. We human beings perceive our environment through our five senses: vision, hearing, smell, taste, and touch.

Our bodies are covered with skin tissue. Our skin receptors deliver messages to our brains when our skin comes into contact with different surfaces. These receptors allow us to feel things like pain, temperature, pressure, and vibrations. If you stick your bare hand into the snow, for instance, your sense receptors will signal the thing you have just touched is cold! *Very cold!* If you take a walk across the beach on a particularly sunny day without sandals on, your sense receptors may tell you that it is hot! *Very hot!* Once your brain has processed this information, it can store the information and use it later on. The next time you go to the beach, you'll likely remember how much the sand can heat up and bring your flip-flops along with you.

Pain is pretty unpleasant when it happens, but think about it this way: pain protects us. When we sense pain, we know that we should stop whatever it is we're doing because it hurts. If

you rest your hand on the stove while it's turned on, the pain will alert you to move away. Our sense receptors allow us to detect pain and tell our brains about injuries to our bodies. Memories of painful experiences help us avoid these experiences in the future. In other words, the information collected by our receptors can guide our future actions. Beware of the stove, or get burned again!

What kinds of receptors allow us to see the world? The sense receptors involved in vision are called "photoreceptors." Other animals have different types of photoreceptors, but humans have only two kinds: rods and cones. Our rods and cones are located in the retina, the back part of the eye. Our rods are sensitive to changes in light, shape, and movement. They help our eyes adjust to the dark. When you stumble to the bathroom in the middle of the night and, after a few moments, are able to see the door well enough not to bump right into it, those are your rods at work. Our cones allow us to perceive color. They operate best in bright light, which is why it's hard for us to make out colors when the lights are out. Some people are "color blind," which means that they have difficulty distinguishing certain colors from others, like red from green. This is because they're missing a type of cone in the retina, or because a particular cone is weak.

Olfactory receptors are the ones that receive smells, whether the scent of freshly baked cookies or day-old garbage. All that we smell is the result of receptors in our noses-about seven centimeters up our noses, actually!-detecting chemicals in the air and informing our brains. When you have a cold, the chemical molecules have a hard time reaching the receptors in your stuffed-up nose, which is why you have trouble smelling. Human beings have about forty million olfactory receptors, which are covered with small hairs called "cilia." A dog like the German shepherd has about two billion olfactory receptors. That's why police officers often use dogs to sniff out whatever it is they're looking for; their sense of smell is much better developed than ours!

Did you know that, of all our senses, smell is the one most closely related to memories and emotions? When you smell an object that you've smelled before, it will often bring to mind memories associated with that object. Also, a lot of times we think we are tasting food when really we are mainly smelling it. Our olfactory receptors send signals to the brain while we're eating, and the brain registers this information as a part of "taste."

Receptors in the ear, called "auditory receptors" or "hair cells," are responsible for our hearing. Sound waves enter through our outer ear and cause the eardrum to vibrate. The three bones in our middle ear pass these vibrations on to the cochlea. The cochlea is a snail-shaped structure in the inner ear that is filled with a special fluid. When the vibrations move the hair cells (our receptors) on the cochlea, they send signals to the brain. Another fun fact:

the canals in our inner ear are responsible for balance. So the next time you're hopping up and down on one leg, remember that you have your ears to thank!

Humans enjoy five different types of taste: sweet, sour, salty, bitter and umami (savory or meatiness). Any other taste you can think of is made up of a combination of these. A human has approximately 10,000 taste buds. Each taste bud has 50 to 150 receptors. These receptor cells, or gustatory cells, only live for about two weeks and are then replaced by new ones. Your taste buds lie on your tongue, the back of the roof of your mouth and the back of your throat. Not all animals have the same receptors as we do. You'll notice, if you ever try and reward your cat with something sugary, your pet doesn't have much interest in candy. That's because cats can't taste sweets.

Certain animals sense their outside environment in incredible ways. Butterflies have taste receptors on their feet. A rabbit's tongue contains 17,000 taste buds. Crickets hear using a thin membrane on their front legs. The box jellyfish has twenty-four eyes. Elephants can hear (and make) very low-frequency sounds that we humans can't. Whether you taste with your feet or your tongue, hear with your legs or your ears, all of us animals need sense receptors. Without them, we wouldn't know as much about the world around us.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What kinds of receptors allow people to see the world?

- A. auditory receptors
- B. olfactory receptors
- C. photoreceptors
- D. skin receptors

2. What does the author describe in this passage?

- A. how our senses work
- B. how to train a dog
- C. how police officers catch thieves
- D. how to be safe in the kitchen

3. If you rest your hand on the stove while it's turned on, the pain will alert you to move away. Our sense receptors allow us to detect pain and tell our brains about injuries to our bodies. Memories of painful experiences help us avoid these experiences in the future.

Based on this evidence, what conclusion can be made?

- A. We need to try to forget our painful memories.
- B. We can't always trust our sense receptors.
- C. The brain is an important sense receptor.
- D. Pain is unpleasant, but it can protect us.

4. Based on information in the text, how do memories form?

- A. Olfactory receptors process and store information provided by the brain.
- B. Photoreceptors process and store information provided by the brain.
- C. Sense receptors process and store information provided by the brain.
- D. The brain processes and stores information provided by sense receptors.

5. What is this passage mainly about?

- A. the benefits of blindness
- B. the habits of animals
- C. the five senses
- D. the five tastes

6. Read the sentence: "**Olfactory** receptors are the ones that receive smells, whether the scent of freshly baked cookies or day-old garbage."

As used in the passage, what does the word "**olfactory**" mean?

- A. connected to the act of storing garbage
- B. connected to the act of baking cookies
- C. connected to the sense of smell
- D. connected to the sense of taste

7. Sound waves enter through our outer ear and cause the eardrum to vibrate. _____, the three bones in our middle ear pass these vibrations on to the cochlea.

Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

- A. Previously
- B. Then
- C. Obviously
- D. Meanwhile

8. Why do police officers use dogs to sniff out whatever it is they're looking for?

9. Should a cat be rewarded with a sugary treat? Why or why not? Use evidence from the story to support your answer.

10. Human beings see, smell, taste, and hear in ways that are different from other animals. What evidence from the text supports this conclusion?