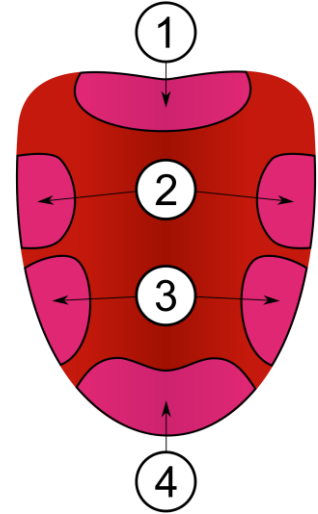


Map Your Taste Buds!

Grade Levels: 4-8

When eating and drinking, your tongue lets you taste all kinds of flavors—sweet, salty, sour, and bitter. Does your whole tongue taste all these flavors or is each part different? This fun experiment will help you make a taste map of your tongue!



Materials

- Paper
- Colored pencils, crayons, or markers
- Cups
- Water
- Salt
- Sugar or honey
- Lemon, lime or grapefruit
- Strong coffee or ginger
- Toothpicks or cotton swabs

Procedure

1. Draw a picture of a tongue on the paper and write down your hypothesis (what you think will happen)—does everywhere on your tongue taste all flavors or do only certain parts of your tongue taste certain flavors?
2. Label cups for each flavor—sweet, salty, sour and bitter.
3. In each cup, put the food or drink for each flavor: sweet (honey or sugar water), salty (salt water), sour (lemon, lime or grapefruit juice), bitter (strong coffee or ginger in water)
4. Dip a toothpick (or cotton swab) in one cup and then put it at the tip of your tongue. Repeat with the sides, middle and back of your tongue. Use a different color for each flavor and draw on the paper tongue where you tasted the flavor.
5. Rinse your mouth with water between each flavor and create your tongue map. Was your hypothesis correct?



Questions

1. Where did you taste the different flavors? Was your hypothesis correct?
2. Was there any part of your tongue you didn't taste anything?
3. Was there any part of your tongue that you could taste more than one flavor?
4. Does everyone have the same taste map?

Check if your findings are correct! Search "taste buds" on the internet to see how your tongue tastes!

Inspiration from <https://www.thoughtco.com/science-experiments-for-kids-4145480>



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