

Pigs



Activity 1: Sensitive Snout

Pigs have an excellent sense of smell and have been used to help find truffles in the ground.

Test your sense of smell. Ask an adult to select 5 different items for you to smell and try to identify. To make it trickier, make sure that you are blindfolded for the activity! While you are sniffing the items and trying to guess what they are, choose some adjectives that you would use to describe each of the smells.

Activity 2: Warm and Dry

Piglets have no brown fat in their body, which means they struggle to keep themselves warm. For this reason, it is essential that piglets are given a nice, warm, dry pen to live in.

With the help of an adult, test different materials to see which would provide the best insulation for a pig pen.

Equipment:

- Cotton wool
- Wood (you could use lollypop sticks)
- Straw
- 3 tin cans (empty & clean)
- Glue
- Thermometer
- Kettle and water (only for adults!)
- Paper and pen or pencil for recording



Instructions:

1. Use glue and cover the outside of the tin cans with a different farmyard material - wood/straw/wool.
2. Ask an adult to fill each can 3/4 full with boiling water.
3. Use a thermometer to test the temperature of the water in each can and write this down.
4. Take another reading after 10 minutes and repeat every 10 minutes for an hour.

Extra Activities:

5. Create a graph and record all 6 readings for each material.
6. Rank all materials in order, according to their thermal properties and decide which would work best for insulating the pig pen and keeping the pigs warm.

Activity 3: True or False?

Below is a list of facts – can you work out if they are true or false? Answers at the bottom of the page!

- 1) Pigs are very intelligent animals
- 2) Pigs roll in mud to cool down and protect their skin from the sun
- 3) Pigs are very sweaty and smelly animals
- 4) Pigs prefer to spend time by themselves
- 5) Pigs can swim

Answers:
1) TRUE
2) TRUE
3) FALSE – PIGS ACTUALLY HAVE VERY FEW SWEAT GLANDS, SO THE PHRASE 'SWEATING LIKE A PIG' ISN'T TRUE AT ALL!
4) FALSE – PIGS ARE VERY SOCIAL ANIMALS WHO LIKE EACH OTHER'S COMPANY AND ALSO LIKE TO CUDDLE!
5) TRUE

