

THE STANDARD

Sensory Receptors & Information Processing

Gather and synthesize information that sensory receptors respond to stimuli by sending messages to the brain for immediate behavior or storage as memories.

 ANCHORING PHENOMENON

The Hot Pan Yank

You reach for what you think is a cool pan handle. It is not. Before you have any conscious thought, your hand is already across the kitchen. A full second later, the pain shows up and you say a word you should not say. The order is what gets students. The movement happened before the feeling. That cannot be right, and yet it is. Students will keep circling back to this all week.

DRIVING QUESTION

“How can your hand move away from danger before your brain even tells you it hurts?”

 INVESTIGATIVE 1

Apple, Potato, Pear, Nose Plugged

Three small white cubes. Apple, potato, pear. Eyes closed, nose pinched. Most students cannot tell which is which. Some guess all three wrong. Open the nose back up and the flavors snap into place. Use this one to sharpen the lens the anchor is pushing on: receptors are specialized, and what feels like one sense (taste) is actually two senses (taste and smell) working together.

DRIVING QUESTION

“If taste is mostly smell, what is the tongue actually doing?”

 INVESTIGATIVE 2

The Song That Pulls a Whole Memory With It

Play a song from five years ago that the class will know. Ask students what they see in their head. Most can name a specific moment, place, or person. Not a general feeling. A specific scene. The song is the trigger. The memory it pulls is detailed, multi-sensory, and was sitting there the whole time. Same kind of receptor-to-brain chain as the anchor, only ending in a stored memory instead of an instant behavior.

DRIVING QUESTION

“How can one sound pull back a whole moment with sights, smells, and feelings attached?”