

# USE YOUR SENSES

Grades K-2 • 45 minutes



## CRANBERRIES

### OBJECTIVES

Students will use all of their senses and observations to describe cranberries.

### ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

How can we use all of our senses to get to know an object?

### MA STATE FRAMEWORK(S)

- 1-LS3-1
- 2-PS1-1

### MATERIALS

- Fresh Cranberries
- Water
- Small Dish
- Easel Paper (to collect observations)

## PROCEDURE

### Warm Up

Ask students the following questions:

- Has anyone eaten a cranberry?
- Has anyone eaten a recipe with cranberries in it?
- Has anyone seen a fresh cranberry?
- What do you think of when you think about cranberries?

### Activity

1. Divide the class into small groups (3-4 students).
2. Give each group a small handful of fresh, whole cranberries with a cup of water.
3. Invite them to explore the berries for a few minutes, in any way they like, so long as they keep the cranberries confined to their group area.
4. Guide students to explore the cranberry through each of their senses.
5. Provide a few minutes for each sensory exploration and collect student group observations on the class chart.
6. While students are exploring, encourage them to make careful observations by asking guiding questions such as those suggested on the next page.

# USE YOUR SENSES

Page 2



## PROCEDURE, CONT.

**Sight:** What are the shades and colors, shapes, dimensions you see? What details do you notice? Will it float? How are any two cranberries alike? Different? Slice one cranberry in half. What do you see?

**Touch:** Hold and move the whole cranberries around in your hands. What does a cranberry feel like? How would you describe the texture? Is the berry firm, smooth? Is it the same everywhere? Is it heavy, lightweight? How would you know you had a cranberry in your hand if you were blindfolded?

**Smell:** How would you describe the smell? Does it remind you of anything else? What? Is it a strong odor? Mild? Sharp? Floral? Sweet-smelling?

**Hear:** What might you do to be able to hear the cranberry? What sounds do they make? Cut a second cranberry in half. Is there a sound it makes when it is cut? After it is cut, what sounds does it make? (Cranberries make audible sounds as they roll, shake, and are squeezed.)

**Taste:** Check for food allergies before doing this. Make sure students are tasting whole cranberries that have not yet been handled by others. What does it taste like? Sharp? Sweet? Bitter? Tart? Meaty? Fruity? What else have you tasted that is like this?

## EXTENSIONS and VARIATIONS

Show the class the video, "[How Does It Grow: Cranberries](https://youtu.be/XZPXQ7nw_gYI)." [https://youtu.be/XZPXQ7nw\_gYI]. While you watch, ask students to record or think about something they didn't know before watching the video that they will share out.

- What did they learn about cranberries?
- How are cranberries harvested?
- What in the video surprised them?

On a map of the United States, locate where cranberries are grown. (Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia.)