
**Reading PI: Nonfiction Comprehension Program**
**Grade 3**


YOUR AMAZING BRAIN

**Reading PI: Nonfiction Comprehension Program**
Grade 3

Peabody College, Vanderbilt University

**Content Developed by:**
Douglas Fuchs (Principal Investigator)
Meagan E.Walsh
Samuel A. Patton
Pamela Lehman

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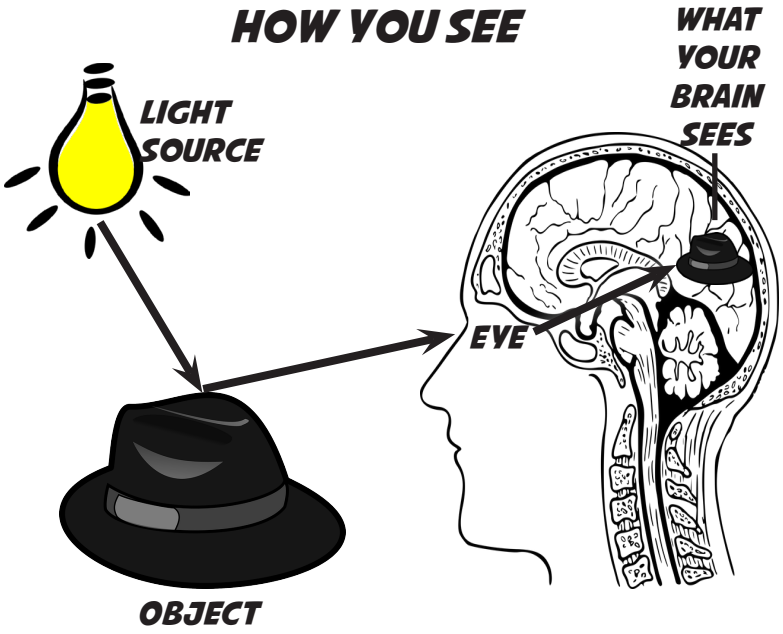
# HELLO, WORLD!

Your five sense *organs* help you learn about the world around you. Everyday, you use your eyes to see, ears to hear, nose to smell, tongue to taste, and skin to feel! These are your five sense organs. Each of them tells you something different about the world around you. Your sense organs do this by sending messages to your brain.

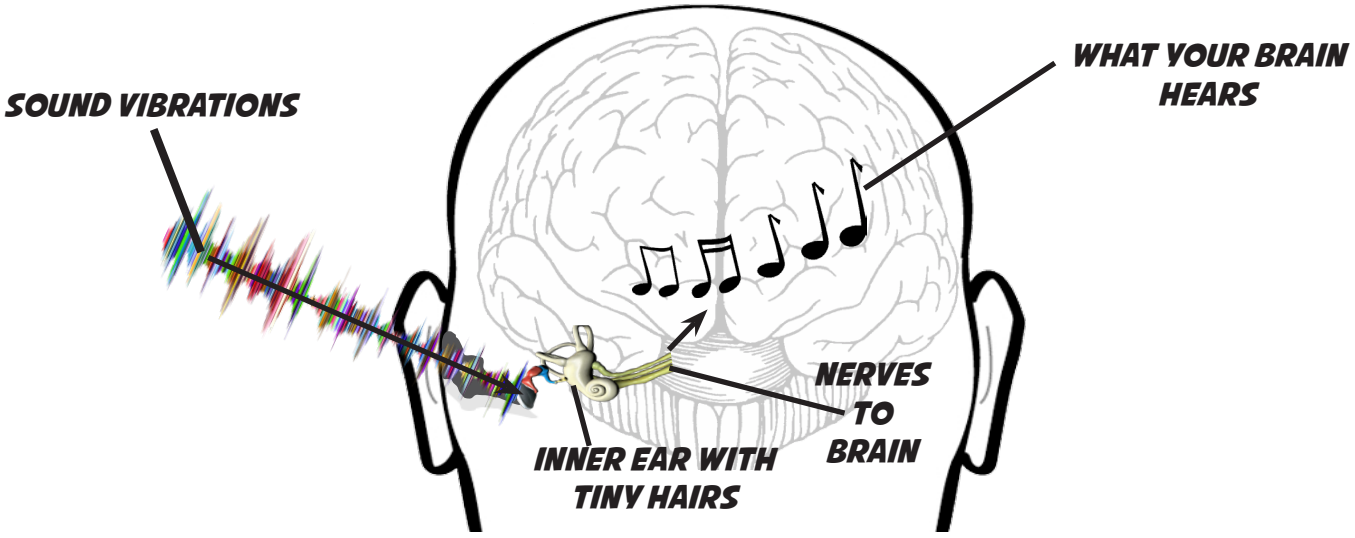
## YOUR EYES

Your eyes help you see. How do they work? Look at a hat. Light bounces off the hat and goes into your eye. The light hits the back of your eyeball. A picture of a hat is made there. *Nerves*—like wires—carry messages about the picture from the back of your eye to special places in your brain. You need your brain and your eyes to see.




## YOUR EARS

Your ears help you hear. Your ears pick up sound waves in the air. Sound waves are tiny movements or *vibrations*. Sound vibrations in the air go into your ear. These vibrations make tiny hairs inside your ear move. These tiny hairs are connected to nerves. When the hairs move, the nerves in your ear send a message to your brain's hearing centers. You need your ears and your brain to hear.



## YOUR NOSE

Your nose helps you smell. How does your nose smell? Pretend a pizza is baking. When the pizza is baking, tiny bits of pizza are sent into the air. These bits are called *molecules*. Molecules are so small we cannot see them. When you breathe in air, pizza molecules go into your nose. High up in your nose is a special place where molecules can stick. Nearby nerves send messages about the pizza molecules to your brain. Then you smell the pizza. You need your nose and your brain to smell.

*A dog's nose is more than 10,000 times as powerful as a human's nose!*

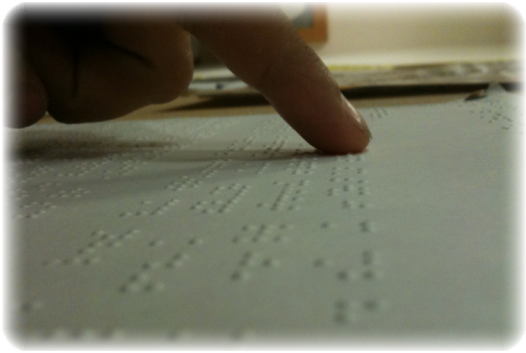
## YOUR TONGUE

Your tongue helps you taste. Molecules in the food you eat go inside the taste buds on your tongue. Nerves send taste messages from your tongue to your brain. Then you taste your food. You need your tongue and your brain to taste sweet, salty, sour, and bitter things.

***Try this:*** *Hold your nose and close your eyes while eating a piece of candy. Can you tell what flavor it is?*

## YOUR SKIN

Your skin has nerves to help you feel. The nerves in your skin tell your brain all kinds of things. You have nerves in your skin for touch, pressure, temperature, and pain. Just by feeling, you can tell that a pillow is soft, a rock is hard, a snowball is cold, and a baked potato is hot. The skin on some parts of your body has more nerves than the skin on other parts.



*People who can't see must use their sense of touch to read. Do you think you could do that?*