



California Science Center
CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR
2001 PROJECT SUMMARY

Your Name (List all student names if multiple authors.) Sara E.B. Heaps	Science Fair Use Only <h1 style="margin: 0;">J0214</h1>
Project Title (Limit: 120 characters. Those beyond 120 will be ignored. See pg. 9) Sight Unseen	Division J Junior (6-8) J Senior (9-12)
Preferred Category (See page 5 for descriptions.) 2 - Behavioral Sciences	
<p>Abstract (Include Objective, Methods, Results, Conclusion. See samples on page 14.) Use no attachments. Only text inside these boxes will be used for category assignment or given to your judges.</p> <p>Objective: The objective of my project was to determine whether or not vision has an affect on how people perceive what they taste.</p> <p>Materials and Methods: I conducted two experiments. I had two groups of six people each, one group was blindfolded and one wasn't. I asked people to write down what they thought they were tasting.</p> <p>a) In the first experiment, I used four #flavors# of soda. I used three canned sodas (strawberry, pineapple, and lemon) and I also used an orange colored drink that was not orange soda but sugar seltzer water with orange food coloring.</p> <p>b) My other experiment, I used four flavors of Jelly Bellies as the items I asked people to taste. The flavors were apple, cherry, orange, lemon and watermelon.</p> <p>Results: Generally, the people in the sighted group were able to more accurately determine what it was they were tasting. For the Jelly Belly Experiment, the Sighted Group had an average of 2 out of 3 answers correct and the Blindfolded Group had an average of 1 out of 3 answers correct. For the Soda Experiment, the Sighted group had and average of 4 out of 5 and the Blindfolded Group had an average of 2 out of 5. This indicates that vision has an impact on taste. In addition, this was reinforced by the results from the orange colored drink where the Sighted Group was fooled into thinking it had orange flavor when it did not.</p> <p>Discussion: The evidence I gathered from my experiment demonstrated to me that vision does have an affect on the perception of taste. Seeing what we are tasting can improve how accurately we identify the item. The data from the Soda and Jelly Belly experiments showed that the sighted group correctly identified the flavor more often than the blindfolded group when the flavor and appearance were related. flavor. However, when there is no relationship between appearance and what was tasted (the "orange soda"), the appearance again had an affect on the perception of taste.</p>	
Summary Statement (In one sentence, state what your project is about.) I am investigating the connccetions between the senses of sight and taste.	
Help Received in Doing Project (e.g. Mother helped type report; Neighbor helped wire board; Used lab equipment at university X under the supervision of Dr. Y; Participant in NSF Young Scholars Program) See Display Regulation #8 on page 4. my dad helped me make the graphs on the computer	