

## Activity-16: Tongue

### Questions to begin with:

1. What is taste?
2. Is taste important to animals?
3. How do different animals find out if their food is bad or good?
4. Suppose a parrot eats a lot of a kind of red coloured fruit and gets sick. After some time it sees another red colour fruit of same size and shape? How does a parrot find out if it or not the previous kind by not eating a lot of it? Which body part is useful in finding it out? The fruit has no smell.
5. Which body part is used for tasting? Is it same in all animals?
6. Do all animals have tongue? Which groups do not have a tongue?
7. Is any body part useful in swallowing food?
8. Have you ever fed animals from your lunch box? Do animals always eat our food? If not why?

### Tasks/Procedure:

Students should look for different kinds of animal in their surroundings. They should observe for the presence or absence of tongue. They should be cautioned that 'tongue' of animals occurs in a variety of forms, sizes and colours. Ask students to describe the different kinds of tongues that observe by solving the table below.

To assist the students a picture of different kinds of tongues present in the animal world is given below.



Animal-name	Tongue-present/absent.
Colour of tongue	
Use of tongue in this animal	
How long is the tongue-does it reach the nose or cheeks of the animal? Describe.	
Is the tongue surface smooth or has a pattern?	
Are both surfaces of the tongue of the same colour?	
Does the animal frequently protrude its tongue out?	
Can you estimate or tell whether the tongue is thick or thin?	
Is the tongue branched?	
Normally is the tongue revealed or concealed?	

### **Concepts covered:**

Tongue has a very special purpose in animals. Tongue acts as a screening organ or a filter for the food we eat. This organ specializes in sensing chemicals. Thus it can assist us in recognizing the food we eat. Slightest change in the composition of food can be detected by tongue. Thus it cautions us to be careful when we are about to eat something unknown...which might be poisonous or bad. Ability to taste is very important. So children enjoy your lunch boxes and don't waste food.