

Principles For Life

by Jeff Murphy

The Call Outdoors

How do your senses measure up?

When God created all the creatures of the air, land and water he gave them very specific senses for surviving in their environments. Lets look at how He made some of them:

1. Fish - God created fish with all 5 major senses. But He also gave them a sixth sense called the lateral line, which is a series of sensitive nerve endings from just behind the gills to the tail on each side. It is easier to see on some species than others. The lateral line can pick up slight vibrations underwater. Scientists did an experiment to see just how sensitive it is. They covered over the eyes of a bass and put some minnows in the tank with it. Slowly but surely it ate each minnow.

2. Squirrels - There are 8 different types of squirrels in North America. Although some have several different names do to color phases. They all have excellent eye sight with hearing smell just below. Have you ever heard the saying “ Even a blind squirrel gets an acorn once in a while”. When you see them in the winter digging in the snow and come up with an acorn, its not because they have a remarkable memory or a GPS its because they can smell it under the snow.

3. Rabbits and Hares - There are 14 types of rabbits and hares in North America. Like squirrels each have several names depending who you ask.

They all have excellent hearing with good eye sight next and then smell. They detect their predators by sound first and then sight. Smell is used for food. The size of their ears are different depending on the habitat they live in.

4. Raccoon - Hearing and touch are excellent ; eye sight and night vision good; smell is fair. Their forepaws are very sensitive and nimble for finding and catching their food

5. Wolves, Coyotes and Foxes - Their smell and hearing are excellent, with eye sight just below. They locate most of their prey by smell. On a calm day a fox can hear a mouse squeak from a 100 yards away.

6. Mountain lions, Bobcats, and Lynxes - Their eyesight and night-vision are excellent. Smell and hearing are good. They all can detect the slightest movement in near total darkness.

7. Polar, Grizzlies, and Black Bears - They all have an excellent sense of smell, Hearing good in Grizzlies & Blacks and Polars have good hearing and eyes. They can smell a dead seal up to 10 miles away, and can hear live seals barking and swimming under the ice.

8. Goats and Sheep - All have excellent eye sight. Smell and hearing are good. They can spot movement from a mile away. They often won't react to strange noises till their eyes confirm the danger.

9. Antelope - They have excellent eye sight. Smell and hearing are good. The antelopes eye sight has been compared to a human using 8x binoculars.

10. Elk, Moose, and Caribou - All have an excellent sense of smell with fair eye sight. If you stay down wind they will often times overlook you.

11. White-tailed, Mule, Black-tailed and Coues' deer - These all have an excellent sense of smell, hearing, and night-vision. Day vision is very good.

They often swivel their ears to triangulate noises, but often won't flee till they see or smell a threat. They can pick up the slightest movement even in dim light. White-tailed deer are believed to have a sense of smell that is 10x stronger than ours. In the right conditions they can smell a predator from a mile away. That is why the die hard hunters of today go to such great lengths to conceal their odor with special clothing, soaps, detergents deodorant, and sprays. Any little shift in the wind can cost you the hunt.

How are your senses? Do they detect things that could be harmful to you? What do you smell like to God? We are told in 2 Corinthians 2:14-16 to be a pleasing aroma for Christ. "But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life."