

## Reminiscing with the Senses

A reminiscing sensory activity

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### Remembering the Fair

Combining reminiscing with a sensory experience just makes sense. For this activity, let's reminisce about the fair and sing some fair-themed songs.

#### Props and preparations:

- Bring in some prize tickets, popcorn, caramel apples, corndogs, a clown nose and wig, balloons, stuffed prizes, a blue prize ribbon, etc.
- Print a copy of the [pictures](#) to hand out or display during the activity.
- Check [Additional Activities](#) for more information to bring to the activity.

#### How does it go?

1. Read the discussion activity.
2. Use the information, questions, and pictures to prompt memories and discussion.
3. For the sensory component, pass around the fair items that you brought in. Have people taste some fair food, touch the prizes and tickets, hold a balloon, and try on the clown wig and nose.



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### Let's Reminisce!

Read aloud and discuss the following information. Look at the pictures and ask the questions below to prompt discussion and memories.

#### Introduction

Remember when the fair came to your town? Feel the excitement of the fair as you remember tasting the delicious food, watching the results of a homemade pie or chili contest, or enjoying a ride on the Ferris wheel.

#### Part 1: Reminiscing at the Fair

1. What would you need to take to the fair? (comfortable shoes, a hat, sunglasses, money for tickets, rides, games, food, etc. )

2. Many fairs feature a baking or cooking competition. Have you ever baked something for a contest? What sorts of homemade food could be entered for the contest? (canned food, pies, cookies, cakes, chili, etc.)



3. Do you remember going to your local fair? Was it a state fair, county fair, or something else? Do you remember what it was called?

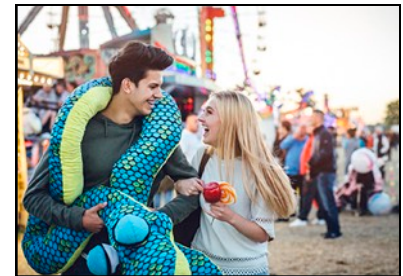
4. Some of the biggest and best fairs and festivals in the United States have a theme. What different types of festivals have you been to? (Renaissance Festival, Great American Beer Festival, Pumpkin Festival, BBQ Fair, The Rodeo and Stock Show, Mardi Gras, etc.)

5. Some fairs judge livestock. Did you ever raise livestock for milk, meat, or eggs? How many different livestock animals can you name? (pigs, chickens, cows, goats, sheep, horses, etc.).

6. Some fairs judge agriculture. Have you ever grown prize-winning produce? How many different types of garden vegetables can you think of? (tomatoes, lettuce, zucchini, peppers, eggplant, pumpkins, squash, green beans, etc.)

7. Have you ever ridden on a carnival ride? Was it fun or scary? What types of carnival rides can you think of? (Ferris wheel, merry-go-round, carousel, roller coaster, tilt-a-whirl, bumper cars, etc.)

8. Do you remember playing any carnival games? Did you try to win a prize for yourself or your sweetie? What were your favorite games to play? (ring toss, horse/dog races, shooting gallery, ring the bell, beanbag toss, balloon darts, etc.)



9. One of the best parts of some fairs is watching the lights from the vendors and the games get bright as it gets dark. Sometimes, a fireworks show would follow the day's festivities. Do you remember what it was like to walk around the fair at night time? Share your experiences.

10. Some fairs feature contests such as a hot dog-eating contest or watermelon seed-spitting contest. Can you think of any other contests that were held at a fair? Did you ever participate in a contest?

## Part 2: Fair Trivia

1. You may already know that fair food is probably not a very healthy choice. But can you guess which of the foods below has really been served at the fair?

- A. Deep-fried Oreo burger (Florida State Fair)
- B. Deep-fried alligator on a stick (Wisconsin State Fair)
- C. Deep-fried butter (Texas State Fair)
- D. Chocolate-covered bacon (Texas State Fair)

**Answer:** All of these foods are real fair foods. Is there anything on this list that you'd be willing to try?

2. The United States' first State Fair was in which state: California or New York?

**Answer:** New York (in 1841)

3. True or false? The Eiffel Tower was constructed for a fair.

**Answer:** True. The Eiffel Tower was built by Gustave Eiffel for the Paris World's Fair in 1889. It commemorated the 100-year anniversary of the French Revolution. Originally, many Parisians didn't like the tower and thought it was an eyesore. Now, it's one of the most visited monuments in the world. Have you ever been to the Eiffel Tower?

4. True or false? The Ferris wheel was invented for a fair.

**Answer:** True. The Ferris wheel was invented by George W. Ferris for the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago. Have you ever ridden on a Ferris wheel?

5. The first carousels were actually used by European knights in jousting competitions. Originally, mechanical carousels had only horses, but other animals were later introduced. Can you think of any other animals on a carousel? (Unicorns, elephants, zebras, ostriches, dragons, tigers, pigs, etc.)



## Let's Eat

Eating fair food is part of the fun, even though you might regret it the next day. What are some of your favorite fair foods? (Ice cream cone, funnel cake, fried pickles, turkey legs, corn dogs, popcorn, cotton candy, lemonade, caramel apples, kettle corn, pizza, onion rings, saltwater taffy, snow cones, etc.)

## Additional Activities

Here are some [ideas for fair games](#) that you can play with your group!



