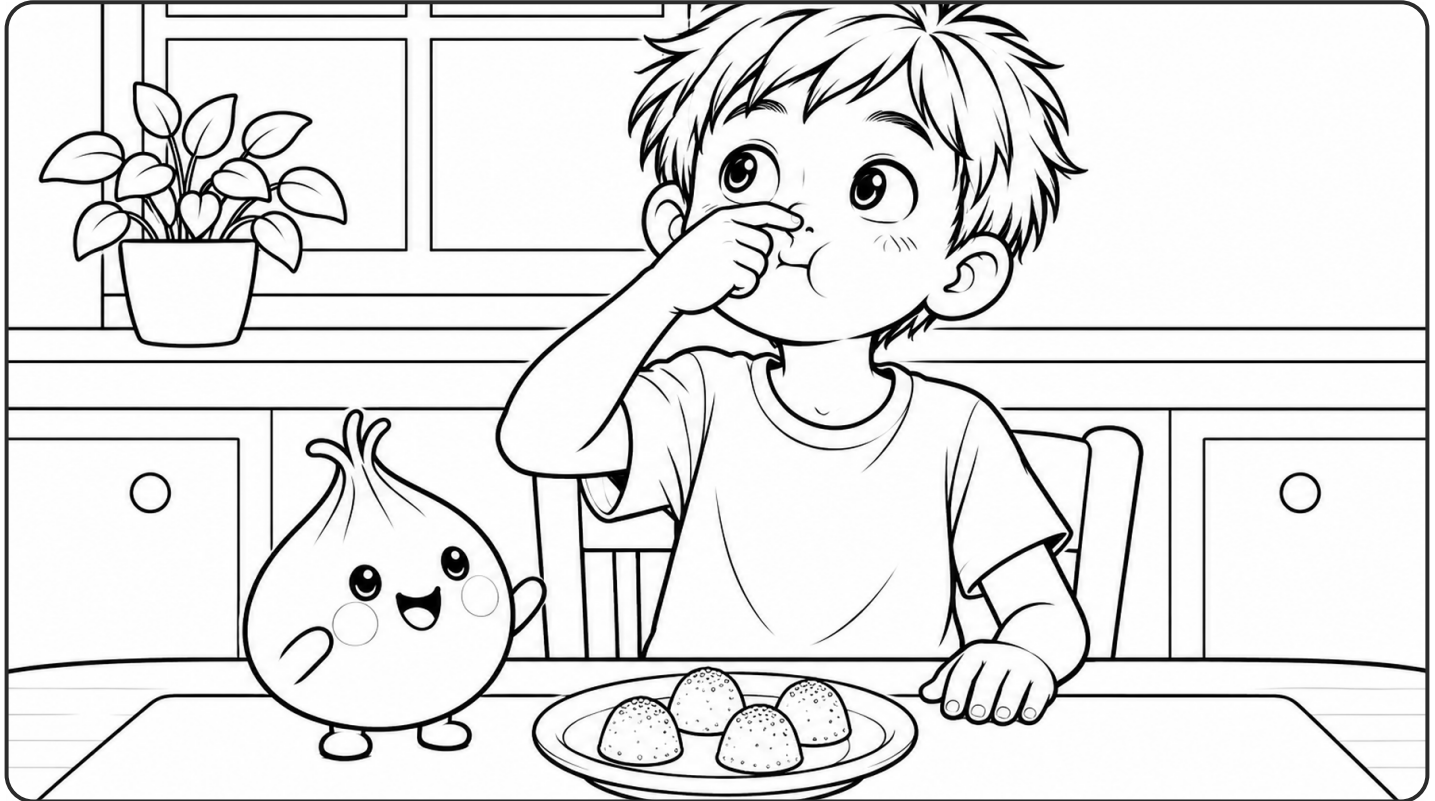


How do I taste different flavors?



Ice cream is sweet. A lemon is sour. A pretzel is salty. They all go into the same mouth. So how can I tell them apart?



Why?

1. Your tongue is covered with tiny bumps.

Thousands of taste buds hide inside them. They are too small to see.

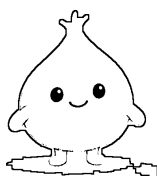
2. Each bit of food fits its own taster cell, like a key in a lock.

Your spit washes tiny bits of food down to the taste buds. Click! A quick message zips along a nerve to your brain.

3. Your nose helps too.

When you chew, the smell of your food floats up into your nose. Your brain mixes taste and smell together. That mix is called flavor.

Color Buddy too!



Try it! Hold your nose!

You need: one fruity candy

1. Hold your nose and pop a fruity candy in your mouth. Chew.
2. You can tell it is sweet. But which fruit is it?
3. Now let go of your nose. Surprise! There it is.

What happened? With your nose closed the smell can't reach your brain, so you only get the taste. That is also why food tastes plain when you have a cold.

Video + more questions:
whywhywhykids.com/taste



scan with a grown-up