

# SENSES AND SENSORS

**DURATION:**

45 minutes

**GRADE:**

3–4

30 students maximum

**KEYWORDS:**

Robot  
 Programming  
 Computational Thinking  
 STEAM  
 Coding  
 Animals  
 Senses  
 Sensors

**CURRICULUM  
 LINKS BY GRADE:**

Grade 4: Life Science

**CURRICULAR  
 COMPETENCIES:**

Questioning and Predicting  
 Planning and Conducting  
 Processing and Analyzing  
 Evaluating

**STUDENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED TO CODING BY EXPLORING THE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN HUMAN SENSES, ANIMAL SENSES AND ROBOT SENSORS.**

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE SENSES AND SENSORS WORKSHOP?**

Students will discover how robots work by exploring the similarities between human senses, animal senses and robot sensors. Students will first discuss the importance of human and animal senses. They will then learn how robots perceive and react to their environments through role play and challenges with the Dash robots. By the end of the workshop, they will understand how inputs result in reactions.

**CLASSROOM ACTIVITY:  
 DASH LESSONS/BLOCK CODING WITH SCRATCH**

If you have Dash: [education.makewonder.com/curriculum](http://education.makewonder.com/curriculum)

If you don't have Dash: Block coding with Scratch

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- » A computer with access to [scratch.mit.edu](http://scratch.mit.edu)
- » Optional: Scratch programming cards (see link in resources)

**WHAT TO DO:**

1. Have students share computers in pairs so that they can use pair programming, a software development technique that has proven effective in teaching programming. In pair programming, the students have roles: the driver is in charge of the mouse and the keyboard and explains what they are doing. The navigator is in charge of checking the driver's work and is in charge of note-taking and reference materials. Students should switch roles every 5 to 7 minutes.
2. Have students explore block coding on their own with the help of the Scratch programming cards or give them specific challenges. To find examples of challenges and block coding lessons, you can refer to the Science World Scratch Programming series or to the Scratch website under the "For Educators" tab.

**MORE ABOUT CODING AND SENSES AT TELUS WORLD OF SCIENCE:**

Search: Sara Stern Gallery

BodyWorks Gallery

**RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:**

- » Dash Educators Guide  
[education.makewonder.com/curriculum](http://education.makewonder.com/curriculum)
- » Science World Resources | Scratch Programming Series  
[scienceworld.ca/resources/units/scratch-programming-series](http://scienceworld.ca/resources/units/scratch-programming-series)
- » Scratch Programming Cards  
[resources.scratch.mit.edu/www/cards/en/ScratchCardsAll.pdf](http://resources.scratch.mit.edu/www/cards/en/ScratchCardsAll.pdf)

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