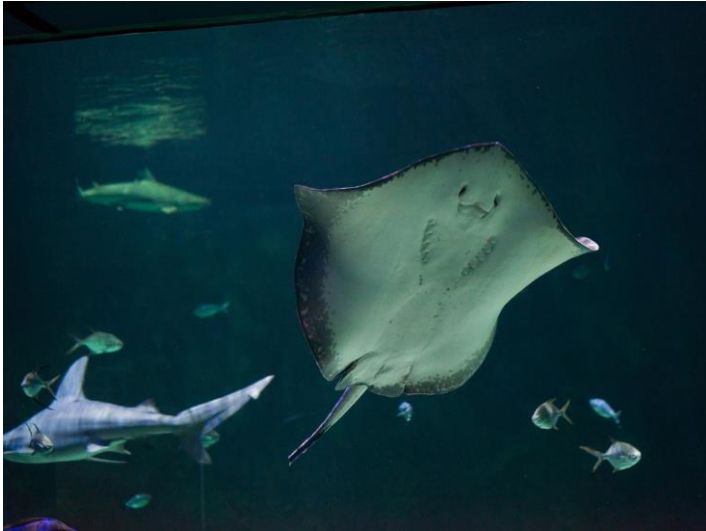


# Eating Like a Stingray Activity



## How does a stingray eat?

Stingrays are unique fish that have good vision, but they rarely use their eyes to find food. Their eyes are set on the tops of their heads while their nose and mouth are on the bottom of their flat bodies. That means for most stingrays, they never get to see what they are eating! They are still able to find their food thanks to their excellent sense of smell and their “sixth sense” of electroreception from gel-filled pores around their mouth called Ampullae of Lorenzini.

## Directions

Have you ever thought what it would be like to eat like a stingray? Well, here is a fun activity that you can do at home the next time you are eating a snack that allows you to get a feel for how a stingray eats.

1. Place your snack on a plate on a table
2. Take your hands with palms facing down and put them under your eyes so that your index fingers are right below your eyes touching your nose and your other fingers are held next to each other. You can still see, but you cannot see below you.
3. Without using your hands to touch the food or looking down at your plate, try and eat your snack using just your nose to help you find it and your mouth to eat it.

## Discussion

What makes this way of eating difficult for humans?

What makes this way of eating easier of stingrays?

Stingrays use electroreception to find their food. What do humans use to sense our food?

How do you think stingray adaptations effect how and what creatures they hunt for food?