

## Dozen Touches

**Synopsis:** Participants work in pairs to find small natural objects that they put in a “touch box” with each compartment labeled with an adjective describing a touch word. They then trade their box with another pair and while blindfolded or with their eyes closed, they have to guess what the word is based on their touching it.

**Set-up & Props:** Tape or glue a strip of paper over the top of an egg carton and print “Touch Box” on it. Decorate the box and label with crayons, markers or coloured pencils. Write the following touch words in the bottom of the compartments of the carton: wet, dry, rough, smooth, soft, hard, round, flat, dull, sharp, fuzzy, prickly. Put a different word in each compartment. Have a blindfold for every two participants. Any area is suitable.

**Source:** Adapted from *Earthwalks* by Kirk Hoessle & Steve Van Matre, Institute for Earth Education, 1980.

### Activity

**1. Intro Touch Box Challenge:** Has anyone ever collected a box of touches? I have, I am an expert at it. I challenge you to see how good you are. Here is a box for a ‘dozen touches’... You thought it was an egg carton but its not! Here is the challenge. There is a touch word written in each compartment of the box. I want you to work in pairs and find a small natural object that has the feel described for each word. Put that object in the right compartment. When you return with your box full, we are going to have a guessing game.

**2. Pairs Find Touches.** Help pairs as they search for touches to fill their box. Separate the pairs from each other.

**3. Split Pairs, Trade Boxes & Guess Touch Words.** When the pairs return with the boxes full, have one person from a pair share their box with a person in another pair. In turn that person’s partner shares their box with the first person’s partner. In each case, give the guesser a blindfold, and then they try to guess the words in each compartment by the feel of the object. The person with the box helps the guesser and tells them if they have the correct answer.

