

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **“An Immense World” Young Readers Edition**

*Discussion guide: Explore the weird and wonderful ways animals sense the world*

### **Introduction: An Incredible Voyage**

What sense do you think you would use most to understand what is happening in the gym? Why? Which animal in the gym might notice something that you can't?

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### **Chapter 1: Leaking Sacks of Chemicals**

What does this experiment tell us about how important smell is for ant societies?

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### **Chapter 2: Endless Ways of Seeing**

If you could try seeing the world the way any animal from this chapter does, which would you choose and why?

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### **Chapter 3: Rurple, Grurple, Yurple**

Why do you think it might be useful for a bird to see these additional colors?

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**Chapter 4: The Unwanted Sense**

Think about a time when you hurt yourself, like touching something hot or falling down. Did it change how you acted afterward? How might pain help animals learn to avoid danger in similar ways?

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**Chapter 5: So Cool**

Did Yong's encounter with Margaret change how you think about snakes? If so, how?

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**Chapter 6: A Rough Sense**

How might moving through your home be different if you had to find your way using only touch, with your eyes closed? What challenges would you face? What might you notice with your eyes closed that you wouldn't if you were relying on your eyes? (If you are blind or have low vision, how have you adapted your environment or your behaviors to navigate the world?)

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**Chapter 7: The Rippling Ground**

Why might sensing vibrations be a helpful way for an animal to detect danger? If you suddenly gained the ability to sense vibrations like a spider, what kinds of things do you think you might notice with your new senses that you might have missed before?

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**Chapter 8: All Ears**

What animal ear did you find most amazing? Which animal ear from this chapter would you most like to try? What kinds of sounds do you think you might hear with it?

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**Chapter 9: A Silent World Shouts Back**

Why might echolocation be especially helpful for bats, which often fly in darkness, and dolphins, which move through murky or deep water?

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**Chapter 10: Living Batteries and Compasses**

Which of these two senses would you rather have, electroreception or magnetoreception, and why?

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**Chapter 11: Every Sense at Once**

What are some ways that your own senses can work together to help you explore the world around you?

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**Chapter 12: Save the Quiet, Preserve the Dark**

What are some ways people could change their behavior to make the world easier for animals to live in? What is something you could do in your own neighborhood?

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**About the author**

If you could ask author Ed Yong one question, what would it be?

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**Final thoughts**

What was the coolest thing you learned while reading this book?

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