

Capture the Five Senses of Summer

By Chloe Halstead

It's official, Summer is here! The air is filled with the soft hum of bees, butterflies flap in the hot air and flowers are bursting out everywhere, fresh from nature's paint box. Here are some fun photography ideas to capture those moments this Summer.

Even if you're not well enough to go outside, or even be in the sun (like me) why not ask someone to take the photos for you and stick them in a scrapbook. Then you can still experience your own summer.

1 - Touch. The best way to feel what Summer is like is to get close. The closer you go the more detail and the more you can feel it. Maybe it's bare feet crunching through grass. Or a close up of a fuzzy bumblebee (not too close though) Try a handful of flowers. Or sand.



2 - Taste - Taste isn't as hard as it sounds to capture in a photo. All you need is a favourite summer fruit. To get that delicious feeling when you look at it choose a really colourful fruit or background and dot some water on it, the water makes it look really fresh. The same works for a drink. If you put the glass in a fridge for a few moments before, the ice/water will create a refreshing feel.



(Mm sweet delicious banana split. Of course when I see this I only see the asthma attack it gave me. :P)

3 - Sound. Sound is difficult to put in a photo but not impossible. It just requires a little imagination. Think of your favourite sound of Summer. For me, it's the clumsy adorable bumblebees and the dawn chorus. Photograph one of those in action and whenever you see that bird or bee you can almost hear the call.



(Just seeing this little guy is enough for my mind to replay his stunning liquid call as the sunrise slowly wakens the world.)



(Or how about this little guy's wings whirring?)

4 - Smell - Until they bring out a new type of camera that captures smells we can just stick with a photo. Think of it as a memory of a type of smell. Whenever I see a photo of fir trees or fairy lights I can smell cinnamon, for me the symbol of Christmas. I just need to close my eyes and I'm back there in that memory. Think of what the smell is for summer and take a photo. If you can feel the juicy zing of a strawberry as you look, then you've captured the smell. It's amazing what your imagination can do.



(The smell will be different for each individual. But it's what you feel that matters. This takes me back to a memory of when Skye and I explored the garden, lit up with beautiful golden hour light, that's the magical hour just before sunset and around sunrise. It gives a golden glow that makes everything feel so warm.)



5 - Finally, sight! Capture flowers framed against brilliant blue skies. Sometimes the camera will choose which part of the photo is lit up. If it chooses the flower then the sky might end up white. Or you might find it's vice versa with the flower in silhouette. Some cameras have an HDR setting but otherwise you'll have to choose your favourite. What colours make you think of Summer? Green leaves? The speckled breast of a mistlethrush? Maybe a big bowl of juicy strawberries?



Use funky scrapbooking paper if you do make a scrapbook. No need to spend money though. You can rip up an old magazine for fun backgrounds, or supermarkets do great seasonal free magazines packed full of colour and inspiration.

Good luck capturing the wonderful senses of Summer. Of course the weather always has its own say. Go with the flow and capture what nature offers you, even if that is a huge downpour. Or in my case (a very angry pet cat who's been caught in the downpour)!

