

Sound - the sensation produced on the organs of hearing when vibrations are transmitted through the air.

What Do You Hear?

Life Skills:

Communicating with others – listening

Educational Standard:

NA-M.K-4.2 & 5-8 Performing on Instruments

Success Indicator:

Youth match the sound to the instrument

Time: 20 minutes

Suggested Group Size:

Classroom or less

Supplies:

Instruments from your club kit and a cardboard box

Often we are unaware of the sounds around us – even when we are driving in a car with the radio tuned to a favorite station. This activity will enhance listening skills for children as they listen to the sound an instrument makes and then try to match the instrument to the sound. Before you begin, read through the activity and designate a quiet place for the youth to sit.

Do the Activity:

Have everyone meet at the quiet place you located. Bring the materials needed for the activity.

Tell the youth how important it is for everyone to be very quiet when listening to the instruments you play.

Tell the youth that you are going to play a variety of instruments – one at a time – and have them guess which instrument makes which sound.

Choose an instrument from your kit. Using the cardboard box as a screen, play the instrument. Place several instruments on top of the box – your stage – and have youth guess which instrument made the sound.

Try the activity with more than one instrument.

Switch and let a young person come up and take on your role.

Let a couple of youth come up and play several instruments. Have youth guess which instruments were played.

Talking it Over

Share What You Did

What part of this activity was most difficult for you? Easiest?

What were the clues that helped you guess which instrument was being used?

What happened as you listened longer?

Process What's Important

What did you learn about matching what you heard to the instrument that made the sound?

How did you tell different sounds apart?

Generalize to Your Life

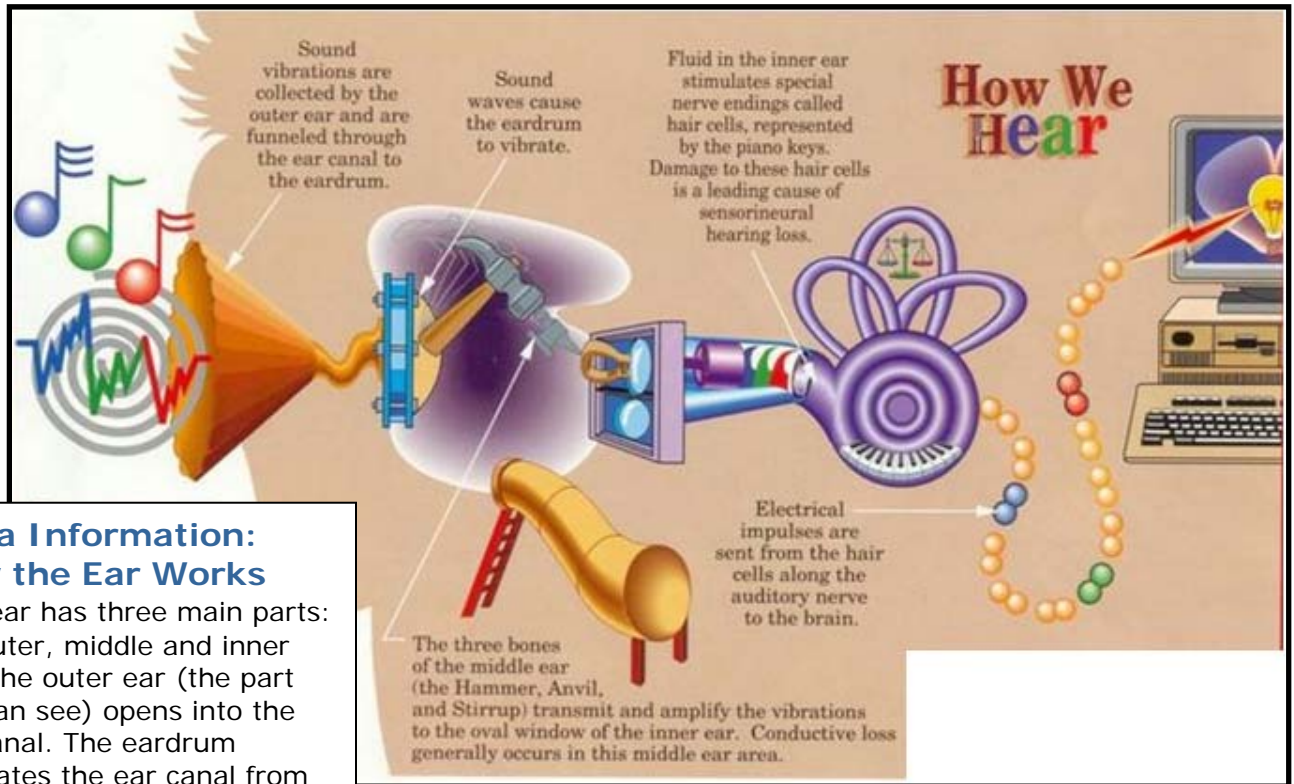
What can you learn by listening to sounds?

How is listening quietly important in other places?

Apply What You Have Learned

How will you apply the skill of listening to your everyday life?

What items could you use to make music?



Extra Information: How the Ear Works

The ear has three main parts: the outer, middle and inner ear. The outer ear (the part you can see) opens into the ear canal. The eardrum separates the ear canal from the middle ear. Small bones in the middle ear help transfer sound to the inner ear. The inner ear contains the auditory (hearing) nerve, which leads to the brain.

Any source of sound sends vibrations or sound waves into the air. These funnel through the ear opening, down the ear canal, and strike your eardrum, causing it to vibrate. The vibrations are passed to the small bones of the middle ear, which transmit them to the hearing nerve in the inner ear. Here, the vibrations become nerve impulses and go directly to the brain, which interprets the impulses as sound (music, voice, a car horn, etc.).

Background Information

Everything in your environment may have some impact on your health. Yes, that even includes music. Scientists have studied how listening to music affects our bodies and minds for many years. Music can reduce stress and pain. The tempo of music can affect your heart rate. Music with a strong beat may help you concentrate and be more alert. Music with a slow tempo may calm and relax you. Think about it. We sing lullabies to babies to put them to sleep and we turn up the radio in our cars if we feel sleepy.

More Challenges

Have youth identify objects from around the room that they can use to make sound. Play a form of sound seven-up. Identify someone as "it." Have the rest of the youth close their eyes, lay down their head and listen for a sound. The person that is "it" finds something in the room to make a sound (tearing a piece of paper). When the other youth can identify the sound, have them raise their hand and choose someone to tell what they think made the sound.