

What do you Hear?

Listening can be a way to observe what is around us. Find a listening spot and make a sound map!

Outside activity

Indoor activity

Printable pages

Art activity

Sensory activity

Movement activity

Music or song

Materials

- Listening ears, paper or index card, writing tool

Introduction

We usually use our eyes to observe, or pay close attention, to something. Will we observe the same things if we use our ears instead? When scientists observe by listening, they can learn more about animals they study through the different sounds they make. What can we learn about the world around us from listening closely to sounds?

Activity: Create a sound map!

Find an area where there are not a lot of other people and remember to stay 6 feet away from anyone who does not live inside your home.

- Find a listening spot. Inside, this might be by an open window. Outside, this might be in the center of the yard, or another space away from other people.
- Draw an X, the first letter of your name, or another shape in the middle of your paper. This represents you, where you are sitting on your sound map.
- Every time you hear a sound, draw a picture of what you heard, in the direction that it came from.
 - ~ Did you hear a bird in front of you? A car drive behind you?
- Try cupping a hand in front of or behind your ear. Does that help you to hear more sounds from different directions?

- When you are all done, share your map with a grownup or friend! A grownup might ask you:
 - ~ How many sounds did you hear?
 - ~ Can you tell me about this picture on your map?
 - ~ What sounds did you like?
 - ~ What do you think made that sound? Why?
 - ~ What sounds were from nature? From people?
 - ~ Did you hear any sounds you have never heard before?
 - ~ Did you hear any sounds that came from something you could not see with your eyes?

Expand

- Try making a sound map in the same spot at a different time of day. Did you hear the same sounds? Different sounds? Why do you think that is?
- Have another person you live with make their own sound map and compare them. Did you hear the same things?
- Before you start, make a *prediction*, or guess, about what you think you will hear. Look at your sound map when you are done. Were your predictions right? Was there something you heard that surprised you?

At the Field

- Come to the *Crown Family PlayLab* and visit the Illinois Woodlands where you can hear the sounds of local woodland animals!
- Explore the *Nature Walk* and *What is an Animal* exhibits to hear more animal sounds!



Watch this Brain Scoop to see how scientists at the Field Museum use listening to do their work.

