



Sound Mapping

Description: Students will use their sense of hearing to make observations about the world around them.

Grade Range (suggested): 3-5

Materials:

- Paper with an “x” drawn in the middle
- Pencil

ENGAGE

1. Introduce that today, we are going to explore what’s around us by using one of our senses! Review the 5 senses with your students.
2. Once students have mentioned all 5, tell them that today we are going to use our sense of hearing and ask “Why might a scientist use their ears to make observations? What could they learn?”

PREPARE TO EXPLORE

3. Have students find a spot for listening--this could be inside or outside. Welcome them to the space and have them share some initial observations—describe the kinds of things you see here.
4. Orient students to their data sheet. Tell them the paper is a sound map and that the X represents where they are sitting (or standing).
5. Everyone can explore the area using eyes, ears, noses and gentle hands for a few minutes.

EXPLORE

6. Then, have students sit and add to their map independently. They can use pictures, words and symbols to indicate interesting sounds.

For example, a few wavy lines could represent a gust of wind, or a musical note could indicate a singing bird.

Note: This could include the other senses, too! Students could add their other noticings making it more of a “sensory” map.

7. Encourage the players to close their eyes while listening for sounds. To help them increase their hearing ability, ask them to make “deer” ears by cupping their hands behind the ears. This hand position will create a greater surface area to capture sounds.

REFLECT and SHARE

8. Once students have had the opportunity to make some observations, have them reflect on what they can infer or learn about the space from the sounds they heard.
9. Then, have them share their maps with the class (if applicable) or with someone at home.

Extensions and Variations:

- Have students complete a sound (or sensory) map in a couple of places and compare and contrast them!

X

What did you learn about the space by listening closely? What kinds of things must be around you based on what you heard?

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X

¿Qué aprendiste sobre el espacio al escuchar atentamente? ¿Qué tipo de cosas deben estar a tu alrededor según lo que escuchaste?



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