



SOUND MAP

LIVING WITH WILDLIFE

Activity 4

ESTIMATED TIME



10 minutes

LOCATION



Outside

SUGGESTED GROUPING



Individual

ACTIVITY TYPE



Craft

MATERIALS: Paper, Colored Pencils/Crayons/Markers

INTRODUCTION

The world we live in is full of sounds from planes, trains, and automobiles to birds, bugs, and mammals. Every place has a unique combination of sounds. In fact, the National Park Services even protect the natural sounds of parks as well, so we can experience the parks' full beauty.

Scientists can use sounds as a way to locate animals and bring animals to them. This can help them determine what habitats are most in need of protection. In this activity we will find a greenspace and make a sound map.

HOW-TO

1. Prepare the activity (5 minutes)

Choose a spot outside where you can safely sit with your eyes closed.

2. 'X' marks the spot (1 minute)

Set your paper in front of you or in our lap and mark the center of your paper with an X to show where you are sitting.

3. Listen to the sounds around you (5 minutes)

Close your eyes and sit quietly. Listening to all the sounds around you.

4. Record what you hear (5 minutes)

Every time you hear a sound make a mark on your paper. If you hear the sound to your right side, make a mark on the right side of your X or draw a quick symbol for different sounds you hear.

5. Wrap-up (5 minutes)

Share your sound map with someone else. What questions did they have? How did you mark different sounds? When you opened your eyes, could you see where some of the sounds came from (like a creek)?

6. [Optional] More fun (10 minutes)

Create sound maps for the same spot but at different times of the day.

LEARN MORE

- The Cornell Lab of Ornithology: <https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/>
- Nature Sound Map: <https://www.naturesoundmap.com/>
- Mapping Sound: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/sound/soundmap.htm>