

Sound Mapping: Exploring the

Sounds Around You

Summary: What sounds do you hear around you? How many different sounds can you identify? This activity asks you to listen to sounds in your environment and record them on a sound map.

Before you get started:

- Collect all materials listed below.
- You will be asked to spend some time outside with safe distance from other people. Check in with a family member before going outside.

Materials:

- Printed Sound Map Worksheet (on page 3-4)
- Pen or pencil
- Colored markers or pencils



LISTEN: Find a safe place outside to sit or stand for at least 5 minutes, ideally 10 minutes or more. You can also complete this activity sitting inside near an open window. Once you have chosen a spot, listen carefully to the sounds around you.

DRAW/WRITE: Fill out your sound map. Follow the directions on the worksheet. If you can't print out the document, refer to the directions and create your sound map on a piece of paper.

WRITE: Now that you have completed your sound map, write or discuss your answers to the following questions:

- 1. What were some of the sounds you noticed? Did any sounds surprise you?
- 2. What were some of the sounds of nature you heard? Have you noticed or heard these nature sounds before doing this activity?
- 3. Were there different sounds in different locations?
- 4. What do the sounds tell you about the environment around you?

Student Notes: Want to explore further? Below are some ways you can examine sound more!

- **Prompt One:** Take your soundmap outside the next day and see if you can recognize the same sounds. Circle the sounds you heard again. See if you can add new sounds to your map.
- **Prompt Two:** Look at your map again and identify which sounds are *natural* and which are sounds *made by humans.* Describe which sounds you identified and discuss them with a family member. Find a spot where you can hear nature and see if you hear more sounds from nature.
- **Making a Sound Recording:** Make an audio sound recording on your phone. Make 10, 30-second sound bites of different sounds in and around your home.

Parent and Teacher Notes:

• If sensory adaptations are needed for this activity, consider creating a map of other senses. For example, instead of sound mapping, consider image mapping (look around and identify everything green) or sensations mapping (what textures or sensations do you feel?)



Sound Map



THE EDIBLE SCHOOLYARD PROJECT

Directions: Draw or write the word or a symbol for the sound you hear and where you hear it, making note of its location on the map. Do you hear the sound behind you? In front of you? Each different sound gets a different symbol or name. *For example, the sound of wind gets a wave symbol.* After you complete your sound map, consider writing the different symbols on your map legend (located on page 4).

This dot represents the location of where you are sitting



Map Legend

Example symbol for wind ᄊ

This worksheet was adapted from Sound Mapping: Watershed Focus Lesson. Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership. Retrieved from: https://www.estuarypartnership.org/educational-resource/sound-mapping-lesson