

Sound – Year 4

Key vocabulary	
sound	Something you can hear or that can be heard. We hear sound with our ears.
sound source	A source is producing sound when some part of it is vibrating.
vibrations	Sounds are made when something vibrates. This means it moves quickly backwards and forwards.
pitch	How high or low a sound is.
volume	How loud or quiet a sound is.
sound insulation	A material which blocks sound effectively.

Key Questions

Can you feel sound?
Why do things sound different under water?
How do we manipulate sound?

Volume

The volume (loudness) of a sound depends on the size of the vibrations.



If we blow an instrument harder, we make a louder sound.

The closer we are to the sound source the louder it will be.



A train arriving at a station sounds loud.

The further away from a sound the fainter it will be.

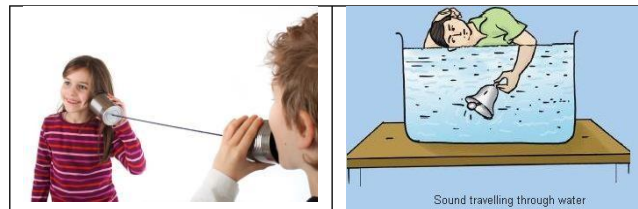


A train in the distance sounds quieter.

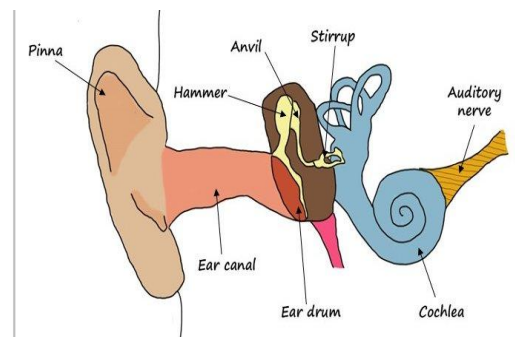
How do we hear sound?

1. Banging the drum produces vibrations.
2. The sound travels through the air to our ears.
3. The vibrations cause parts of our body inside our ear to vibrate. This allows us to hear the sound.

As well as travelling through air (gas), sound can travel through solids and liquids:



The Inner Ear



Insulating sound



We can wear ear defenders to protect our ears from very loud sounds.