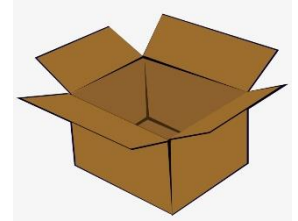




Science Activity

Seeing Sound

Time to prepare: 5 - 10 minutes



□ Please stay safe and ask a grown up to supervise you

Resources/ things you need

- Balloon
- Scissors
- Glass or jar with small opening to fit a balloon over.
- Cellotape
- Sugar or salt.

What to do

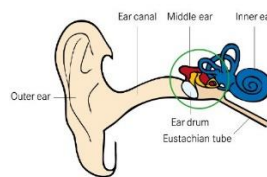
You can't actually see sound as it travels through the air. This experiment lets you see the vibrations that sound is made from.

1. First, carefully cut off the neck of the balloon and throw it away.
2. Second, put the body of the balloon over the top of a glass. Stretch it to make a tight skin, like that on a drum.
3. Next, wrap cellotape around the edge of the balloon and glass to keep the balloon tight and in place.
4. Then, stand the glass on a table and put a few grains of salt or sugar on the balloon skin.
5. Finally, with your mouth about 10cm back from the balloon surface, hum loudly. **What happens to the salt or sugar? Do you know why? Try humming a high note and a low note? Do you notice anything change?**

Background and the link to learning

Sound is made up of vibrations that move through the air. The vibrations are called sound waves. When something makes a sound, vibrations spread out from it in all directions. When the vibrations in the air hit something they make it vibrate too. When sound waves from your mouth hit the stretched balloon, they make it vibrate up and down which you can see because the salt or sugar grains jump up and down. **Did you know the bones in your ear vibrate to hear sound?**

Pictures



Link to other similar activities - Please see: [Get Musical](#) and [Make a telephone](#).

