

Nature activities for neighborhoods, yards and other outdoor spaces

Create a sound map.

Sound mapping

Sound mapping is a fun activity that can instill a deeper awareness of the nature that surrounds you.

In an outdoor environment, listen closely to the melodic sounds of bird conversations and rustling grasses. These sounds can help us relax and deepen our appreciation for the life around us

Materials: Sheet of paper and writing utensil

1. With your sheet of paper, mark an **X** in the center. The **X** represents where you are sitting.
2. When you hear a sound, make a mark on the paper to represent the sound. The location of the mark should indicate the direction and distance of the sound from where you are seated.
3. When you are done, answer the following questions:
 1. What sounds were the most familiar to you?
 2. What sound had you never heard before?
 3. Do you know what made the sound?
 4. What sound did you like best?
 5. Why?



Tips:

- Try not to draw a detailed picture for each sound. For example, a few wavy lines could represent a gust of wind, or a musical note could indicate a bird call. Making simple marks keeps the focus on listening rather than on drawing
- It may be helpful to close your eyes while listening for sounds to increase hearing ability.
- You can also cup your hands behind your ears. This hand position will create a greater surface area to capture sounds. You can also cup your hands in front of your ears (palms facing backwards) to hear sounds behind you more easily! Spend the time you feel comfortable creating your map.