



Summer Sensations

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Challenges

Summer is a fantastic time for enjoying nature. Using our different senses means we get to experience all the amazing wonder of wildlife, and being outdoors with lots of fresh air is a great way of having fun whilst we keep our social distance and stay safe. Check out these **SOUND** challenges for you and your family or household bubble to do during the holidays.

On your daily walk or in your garden

These are challenges to do while you are outside but it's important to stay safe and also look after nature. Here are tips to follow if collecting from the wild:

- Remember to **always ask an adult** before going for a walk
- Identify and **avoid touching** plants such as stinging nettles, foxgloves and fungi that may cause skin irritation, illness, etc.
- Choose **only a single petal leaf** to pick carefully so as not to damage the rest of the plant
- **Never taste** or put any parts of **wild plants** near your mouth
Eating outside is fun but take a picnic with you to use your sense of taste
- **Always wash hands** after you have been handling natural objects



Outdoor Orchestra

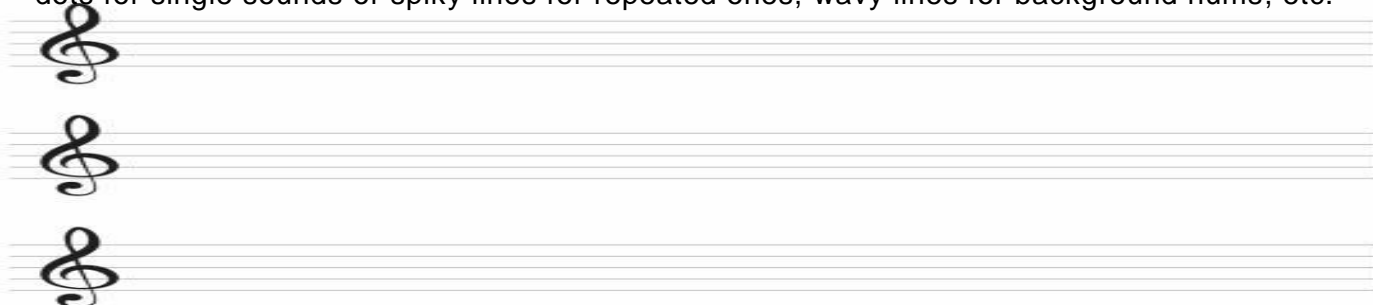
We often go outside for some *peace and quiet* but rarely is it ever truly quiet. Take a moment to enjoy the sounds of nature then have a go at conducting the orchestra.

What to do?

First find out who is *playing* in the orchestra today. Tick the list below & add more you hear

- Can you hear the wind blowing through the trees, rain falling on leaves,
- Can you hear birds? How many different songs? Are they answering each other?
- Can you hear bees buzzing? What about any other insects, flies, crickets?
- Can you hear dogs barking? What about farm animals, horses, cows, sheep?
- Can you hear people? Are they chatting, shouting, laughing, crying?
- Can you hear manmade noises like lawnmowers, cars, trains, aeroplanes?

Next record the *music*: you can do this on a phone if you have one but if not, just make lines on the music *score* below to represent the *notes* you hear e.g. thicker lines for louder noises, dots for single sounds or spiky lines for repeated ones, wavy lines for background hums, etc.



Finally, make yourself a *baton*: This is what the Conductor waves to make all the whole orchestra plays together. You need a straight stick about 15cm long & as thick as your finger. Now give a Sounds of Nature concert. Ask your family to be your audience to share the fun.

Nature Sounds Shaker

Use natural materials that make different sounds to create your own percussion band.

What you need?

- Cardboard tubes of different sizes. Toilet/ kitchen roll inners are ideal.
- Paper bun cases or circles of greaseproof paper & rubber bands.
- Old wrapping paper, scissors, glue, colouring pens to decorate.

What to do?

- Collect small bits of natural materials with different sounds e.g. grass seeds, nuts, cones, leaves, shells, pebbles, etc. These go in your shaker so harder things are better but no live animals please!
- Cut & glue wrapping paper around your tube or colour to decorate it
- Glue a bun case to one end and let dry. Secure with a rubber band.
- Now fill with some natural materials (1 or 2 teaspoons is plenty) then glue a 2nd bun case to the open end. Secure with a rubber band & start shaking!



Experiment with different tubes and materials so everyone in the family can join your band.

Scrap Waste Wind Chimes

This a great activity for re-using some waste from your recycling bin ☺

What you need?

- A variety of items you are throwing away. Top tip: metal lids, foil trays, milk bottle tops, bunches of old keys, CDs & cutlery are brilliant but plastic bottles & tubs work too. **Never use glass or anything with sharp edges.**
- An old coat hanger, string, sticky tape & scissors

What to do?

- First make sure everything is thoroughly washed and dried.
- Now cut a piece of string and attach 2 or 3 items along its length then tie to the coat hanger. For some tips on tying knots - listen to this www.youtube.com/watch?v=5c5xl-3SnUU and / or use some sticky tape. If you need to make any holes in metal or thick plastic, ask an adult to help.
- Keep adding more items to fill the coat hanger. You might want to decorate it too.



Finally, hang up in your garden or near an open window and enjoy the music of the wind.....

Here are some more **SOUND** nature challenges

Sound Safari Download http://www.treetoolsforschools.org.uk/activities/pdfs/pdf_sound_safari.pdf and take on your daily walk. Did you hear them all? How many more did you hear?

We're going on a Bear Hunt Have a go at making your own sound effects of this well-known story. You'll need wellington boots plus different "noisy" things to walk through e.g. *crunchy* gravel, *swishy* grass, *sqelchy* mud, *rustling* leaves. Remember to **ask an adult** before going for a walk and **take extra care in rivers**. Fast flowing water can be dangerous but *splashing* in puddles will make just as much noise. If you haven't heard the story ... you can listen to the author Michael Rosen telling it here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=kL36gMrHJaI.

Play Bumblebee Bingo Did you know the Latin name for Bumblebees is *Bombus* meaning "booming" and comes from the loud buzzing sound they make. There are 24 different species of Bumblebee in Britain. Get bingo cards of the 6 most common of these incredibly important pollinators here: www.bumblebeeconservation.org/assets/documents/Bumblebee_bingo.pdf

Wildlife Tracking Hearing is used by animals to talk to each other, find food and avoid becoming food! Some have special adaptations to make their sense of hearing even more amazing. Use the *Who, When & Where* sheets to track how local wildlife hears and are heard!

Who's ear?

Can you work out who these ears belong to? Then draw a line between the photo and the correct fact about its amazing hearing adaptation. Tick the ones you have seen in real life.



Name:

____ _

This animal makes lots of high frequency noises, which bounce off anything they hit e.g. trees, walls or even tiny moths. The animal uses the return sounds to avoid obstacles and hunt prey in the dark of night. This is called *echo-location*.



Name:

____ _

This animal's hairy ears are large and cupped shape to help capture sound waves. They are also highly mobile and can be rotated almost 180 degrees and independently of each other.



Name:

____ _

This animal's pointy ears help make its hearing is so sharp they can hear a watch ticking 35m away. They can also hear something moving underground.



Name:

____ _

This animal's rounded ears are huge in relation to its small size of head giving it superb hearing. Research shows that they can hear frequencies up to 90 kHz! This is way beyond what humans can hear so we call it *ultrasound*.



Name:

____ _

This animal's ears are extra long – maybe up to 11cm! They can be rotated 270 degrees and move independently of each other meaning they can hear to different noises at the same time sometimes up to 3km away! They also help keep the animal cool in warm weather.

Recently, scientist have found the animals with the best hearing in the world are moths! This is probably because they have to try and avoid been eaten by bats who also have excellent hearing. Luckily moths can actually hear a higher frequency than bats, allowing them to escape before they can be eaten – at least some of the times!

Who's song?

Birdsong can help you identify a bird especially in woodlands where it might be difficult to see. Here are some to listen out for around Rochdale. Make When & Where notes in the boxes.

You can hear recordings on www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/bird-songs/what-bird-is-that/



Robin

Length of verse: 2–4 secs

Each verse is different, but the theme is watery, all gurgles and trickles, with slow, long notes followed by a gush. Think of a stream, with still pools and then little cascades.

When	Where



Blackbird

Length of verse: 2–3 secs

Each verse is different, but all in a rich, fluty, warm baritone. The pacing is relaxed, and more often than not he finishes each verse with a little 'squeaky twiddle'.

When	Where



BlueTit

Length of verse: 2–3 secs

Typically sings 'sispi si-hi-hi-hi-hi', the first notes higher in pitch than the longer closing shimmer.

When	Where



Wren

Length of verse: 4–6 secs

Superfast outburst, packing in 100 notes or more, linking together several mini trills including a dry rattle with the speed of a mini machine gun. For a tiny bird – it makes a lot of noise!

When	Where



Woodpigeon

Length of verse: 6–10 secs

A low, lowering five-note phrase, repeated 2-4 times each verse, to the rhythm of 'I don't want to go, I don't want to go'

When	Where