

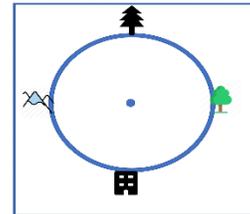


OUTSIDE LISTENING & MAPPING SOUNDSCAPES GRADE 3-5

Explore the sounds of nature, practice mindfulness, and reconnect with your natural surroundings.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN:

- Mapping the sounds of nature
- Listening to the sounds of nature
- Soundscapes like landscapes tell us the story about the place



CURRICULUM OUTCOMES

- Learners will investigate sound in the environment, they will investigate the impact of environmental factors on sound

Example of soundscape sheet extracted from mathsinsideandout.blogspot.com

MATERIALS:

- A piece of paper
- Pencil
- Clipboard
- Mindfulness

This is an individual, outdoor activity, it can be done in outdoor spaces of the school, home backyard, nearby park/trails.

WHAT TO DO:

- Ecologists (scientists that study living organisms and their environments) are able to record the sounds of the natural environment and map how these sounds change over time. These changes in the environment include urban development, and increased traffic on land and waterways that have altered the soundscapes.
- Today, students will take on the role of a soundscape ecologist. Find a spot where the student can sit or stand comfortably.
- Encourage the student to draw a circle on a piece of the paper so that it fills their page and ask them to place a dot in the centre. The student's location represents the dot. Ask them to mark the object in the front, behind and on both sides along the edge of circle. They could also mark them as north, south, east, and west, or other options could be left, right, front, back.
- Now ask them to close their eyes and listen. Mark on their map what they hear, how far away the sound is, and from which direction the sound is coming.
- Ask the student to mark both, the distance of sounds from them and direction of sounds. They may hear wind from the trees, buzzing of bees, sounds of bicycles or sounds of other youth playing.
- Encourage the student to make soundscape maps of the same place over different days but at the same time. Ask them to document what they notice and what they wonder.
- Encourage the student to make soundscape maps of the same places over different times of the day. Ask them to document what they notice and what they wonder.
- The student can present their findings at the end of season. This activity can also be carried out throughout the year (weather permitting) and students can give presentations of sounds of various seasons and how and why they changed

CREDIT/REFERENCES:

This activity has been modified from the mathsinsideandout.blogspot.com.