Year 4 - Science

NC Unit: Sound How do we hear different sounds? Physics



What should I already know?

- Hearing is one of my five senses.
- Sounds can be combined using musical instruments.
- What the word vibration means.

What will I know by the end of the unit?		
What is a sound?	A thing that can be heard. The object that makes the sound is called the source.	
How is a sound made?	 When objects vibrate, a sound is made. The vibration makes the air around the object vibrate and the air vibrations enter your ear. These are called sound waves. If an object is making a sound, a part of it is vibrating, even if you cannot see the vibrations. 	
How do sounds travel?	 Sound waves travel through a medium (such as air, water, glass, stone, and brick). For example, if somebody is playing music in the room next door, the sound can travel through the bricks in the wall. 	
How do we hear sounds?	 When an object vibrates, the air around it vibrates too. This vibrating air can also be known as sound waves. The sound waves travel to the ear and make the eardrums vibrate. Messages are sent to the brain which recognises the vibrations as sounds. 	
How do sounds change?	Pitch: The pitch of a sound is how high or low it is. A squeak of mouse has a high pitch. A roar of a lion has a low pitch. Volume: The volume of a sound is how loud or quiet it is. When a sound is created by a little amount of energy, a weak sound wave is created which doesn't travel far. This makes a quiet sound. A small tap of a hammer is used with small amounts of energy and so creates a quiet noise. A vibration with lots of energy makes a powerful sound wave and therefore a loud sound. A powerful, smashing tap of a hammer is used with lots of energy and so creates a loud noise.	
How do we measure sound?	 Amplitude measures how strong a sound wave is. Decibels measure how loud a sound is. Frequency measures the number of times per 	

second that the sound wave cycles.

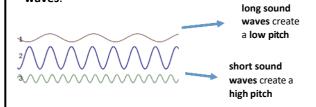
Big Ideas this works towards:

Energy, which cannot be created or destroyed, comes in many different forms and tends to move away from objects that have lots of it.

Diagrams

Pitch:

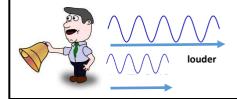
- High pitch sounds are created by short sound waves
- Low pitched sounds are created by long sound waves.



Volume:

- The closer you are to the **source** of the sound, the **louder** the sound will be.
- The further away you are from the **source** of the sound, the **quieter** the sound will be.

quieter



Vocabulary		
amplitude	a measure of the strength of a sound wave	
decibel	a measure of how loud a sound is	
electricity	a form of energy that can be carried by wires and in used for heating and lighting, and to provide power for devices	
energy	the power from sources such as electricity that makes machines work or provides heat	
frequency	a measure of how many times per second the sound wave cycles	
medium	something that makes possible the transfer of energy from one location to another	
pitch	how high or low a sound is	
power	Power is energy, especially electricity, that is obtained in large quantities from a fuel source and used to operate lights, heating, and machinery	
sound waves	invisible waves that travel through air, water, and solid objects as vibrations	
source	where something comes from	
transmit	to pass from one place or person to another	
travel	how something moves around	
vibrations	invisible waves that move quickly	
volume	how loud or quiet a sound is	