

The Science of Sound



SOUND

Sound

Sound is a form of energy. Energy is the ability to cause a change in matter.

Energy

Sound is produced and transmitted by vibrating matter. Sounds are vibrations you can hear:

Vibration

SOUND

Put your index and middle finger



Sound

Put your index and middle finger on your neck. Say the word "Aah" as loud as you can. You not only hear a sound, but you can FEEL a movement inside your throat.

Energy

When you say "Aah", your vocal cords vibrate. That means they move quickly back and forth. As your vocal cords vibrate, they produce sound.

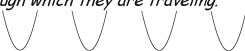
Vibration

SOUND

SOUND
WAVE

Sound travels in waves. Each vibration produces a sound wave, a surge of energy that travels through matter. Each wave is a disturbance moving through a medium (solid, liquid, gas).

Sound waves are longitudinal waves. They push the molecules of the medium through which they are traveling.

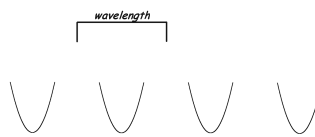


SOUND

SOUND
WAVE

Sound waves can be described by their wavelength and frequency. Wavelength is the distance between a point on one wave to the same point on the next wave. Frequency is the number of times the sound source vibrates in one second.

WAVELENGTH
FREQUENCY



SOUND

Use the pencil tool to fill in the blank. Then, use the eraser tool to see if you are correct. If you were right, click on the ear.



1. Sound is a form of _____.
2. Sounds are _____ you can hear:
3. Sound travels in _____.
4. _____ is the distance between a point on one wave to the same point on the next wave.
5. _____ is the number of times the sound source vibrates in one second.
6. Sound waves are _____ waves.

