

SOUND MAPPING

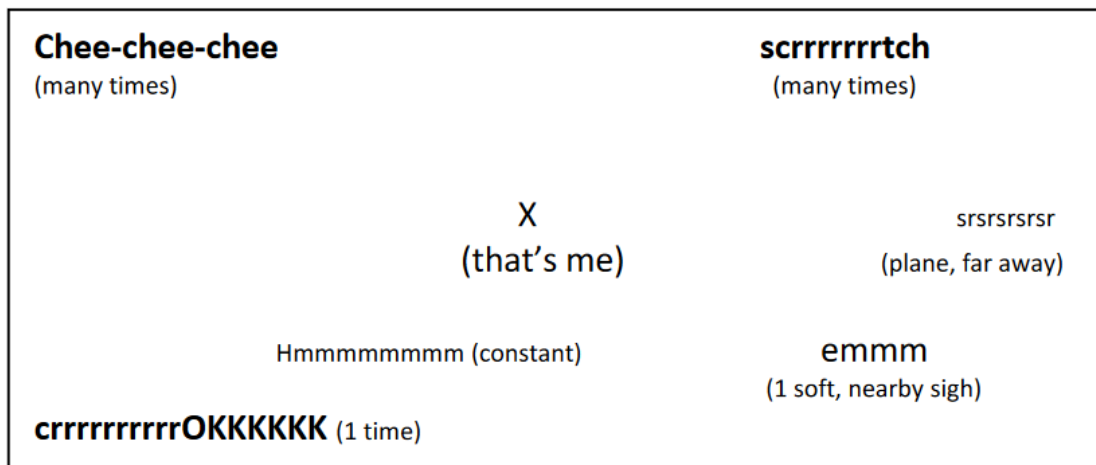
There is beauty all around us. Some of the beauty can be seen, but other types of beauty can be heard with our ears. A sound map is a great way to pay attention to the beautiful sounds of nature.

- 1) Get a pencil and the blank page of this activity or some scrap paper.
- 2) Find a place to sit outside or near an open window. This spot should be safe, comfortable, and somewhere you can sit quietly for a few minutes.
- 3) Make an X in the center of the notecard, journal page, or paper. This X marks your location in the ecosystem and is the start of your sound map.
- 4) Listen closely for 5-10 minutes. Record the sounds you observe around you on your map.

Pay attention to both the type of sound and the location.

Use drawings, symbols, simple descriptions, or letters to mark the sounds onto your map. Each time you mark a sound, be sure to choose the location on the map that indicates both distance from you and direction.

Here's a quick example:



5) After the sound mapping is finished, describe it to someone or think about these questions:

- Did you hear anything surprising?
- What was your favorite sound? Can you imitate it?
- Did you notice more sounds coming from a certain direction?
Why do you think that is?
- Did you hear any animal sounds?
- Did you hear any sounds created by plants?
- Did you hear any sounds of water?
- Did you hear any human sounds?
- Did you hear any mechanical/machine sounds?
- Did you notice any repetitive sounds or specific patterns sounds?
- How did it feel to listen to sounds?
- After sound mapping, what questions do you have about the ecosystem?

LISTEN COMPARE

You can repeat the sound mapping activity in different locations, at different times of day, or in different seasons.

How do morning sounds at your window compare to evening sounds at your window?

How do the sounds in your backyard compare to the sounds on your front stoop?

How do sounds in the forest compare to sounds near a creek?

How do the sounds of late winter compare to the sounds of early spring?

What do you notice when you compare your sound maps? Now what questions do you have about the system you've been listening to?

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MY SOUND MAP



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