

Silent Sound Count Map



Activity Description

Heighten your observation skills with the natural surroundings. This is a calming, quiet activity.

The world is full of activity that often goes unnoticed! Take some time to step outside and notice the sounds around you!

You can either walk through the neighborhood or just sit in the backyard and be sure to

Materials

- 1 Paper
- 1 Pencil
- 1 Hard Surface (a book or Clipboard)
- Colored pencils

Preparation and Safety

Be sure to set safety parameters or boundaries for smaller children.

take your paper and writing utensils out in the yard or on the walk with you.

Procedure

1. If you are going for a walk or just hanging out in the yard, let your little scientists know that this is going to be a silent walk/activity. They will need to be super quiet to be able to hear all the different sounds around them.
2. Let your observers know that as you all are walking or sitting, every time you hear a new sound, you should point in the direction of that sound with you finger. Tell them that it is important to count, point, and remember the sounds (and only count the first time that you hear the sound).

(instructions continued on next page)

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Procedure (continued)

3. We suggest setting a goal for this activity. See if you can hear 10 different sounds.
4. When you reach your goal get out paper, pencils and/or colored pencils, and a hard writing surface to record these sounds.
- 5. To make a sound map:**
 - a. Take your paper and writing utensils and mark yourself in the middle of the sound map. Find a spot to stand or sit still. Try to stay still for a short while (~5 minutes) and start to listen for the sounds around you.
 - b. Mark on the paper the sounds that you hear AND the direction that they are coming from. You may hear things like birds on your side or a squirrel above you in a tree.
 - c. After recording each of your sounds, you can color it in and make your map beautiful!

Extensions or Adaptions

- *This activity could be done at different times of the day to compare maps and see how sounds change throughout the day.*
- *Could also be done on different days if the weather changes—nature sounds will change as well.*
- *After creating your own sound map, use this website to hear what different natural parts of the world also sound like: <http://www.naturesoundmap.com/>*