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Your Sense of Hearing



Your sense of hearing helps you in many ways. You can hear the telephone when it rings, and listen to people when they talk to you. You can listen to your favorite music, too!

Your ears also help you to locate sounds. You can hear when sounds come from the right or the left. Then you can follow the sound by turning your head.

You can hear lots of different sounds. Some things make loud sounds, like a motorcycle or a jet plane. Other things make soft sounds, like a clock ticking or wind chimes blowing in the wind.

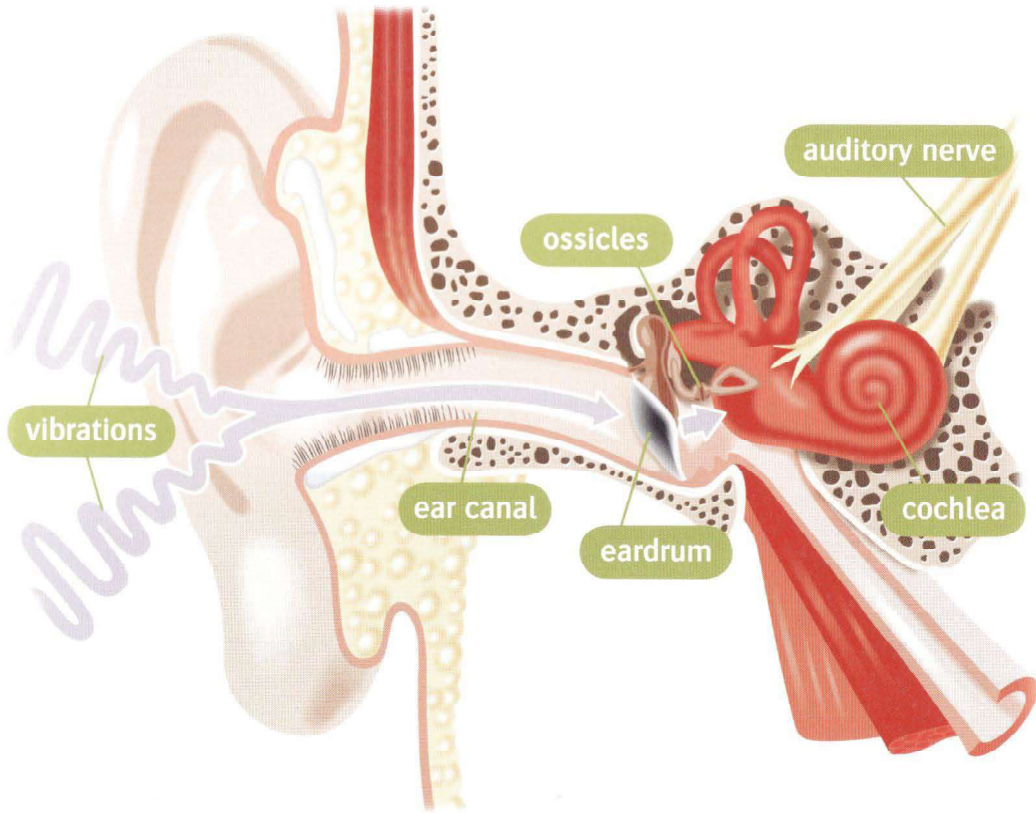
Some things make high sounds, like a whistle or a flute. Other things make very low sounds, like a tuba or a big bass drum.



→ Go to pages 28–29 for activities.

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Inside Your Ear

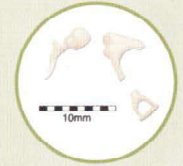


Sounds are vibrations in the air that your ears can detect. First the vibrations go into your ear canal. Then your eardrum vibrates. Behind your eardrum there are three small bones called ossicles. They also vibrate.

Next to the ossicles there is a spiral tube called the cochlea. It detects vibrations from the ossicles. Then the auditory nerve collects the information and takes it to your brain. This is how you hear.



The ossicles are the smallest bones in your body. This is how small they are!



A Cochlear Implant

Some people don't hear well. Sometimes they wear a hearing aid to make sounds louder. Other people have a cochlear implant. The implant detects sounds with a microphone. Then it sends electrical signals to the cochlea inside the ear.