

Soundscaping

When we think of the natural environment around us, we think about the tall trees, the colorful flowers, the cute animals, the fresh smells, but what about the sounds? With soundscaping, we are taking in our audible environment. What do you hear and why? Do those sounds change throughout the hour, day, or season? This activity gives us time to breathe and appreciate the natural environment around us.



MATERIALS: Paper and pencil, colored pencils, crayons, markers or stickers/stamps.

SETTING: Backyard, patio, front door, local park, etc.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Draw a large circle on a piece of paper and mark the center with a sticker or drawing—that is going to represent you. A worksheet is also provided, if you prefer to use that.
 - a. *If other people are participating, you can make multiple circles or put multiple marks on one circle*
2. Sit down in whichever location you choose and just listen for 30 seconds to 2 minutes.
3. Before you discuss with a friend or family member, mark/draw what you heard and where you heard it in the circle.
 - a. Depending on where you sat in the circle, did you hear different things?
 - b. Why did you hear a bird to the left and a child laughing to the right?
 - c. If you do this again, are the sounds the same?
 - d. Do you hear certain kinds of animals? How's the weather like? Does it make sense to hear what you're hearing?
4. Do this again at different times of the day or week.
 - a. Do the positions of the sounds change? Why do you think?

*If you hear a lot of birds in your yard, you can look up their calls or record them and reference a free app: **eBird** or visit **Cornell All About Birds** | www.allaboutbirds.org/news/



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