

ACTIVITY 15



Sound Maps

Season	All
Site	All
Age Group	6+, unless variation with children in a circle is used.
No. of Children	Any

Equipment Needed: Pencil and paper, one per child.



Safety Notes

Ensure that children do not go out of earshot.

Instructions

1. Explain to the children that they are going to be using their sense of hearing.
2. The children find their own special space in the woods, within site and earshot of the adults but not next to other children.
3. They are given between 3 and 10 minutes, depending on the group, to sit and listen to the sounds around them.
4. Whilst sitting and listening, the children draw a sound map. This involves drawing themselves in the centre of a piece of paper and then pictures that represent what they hear, in the direction that they heard it.
5. Bring the children back together at the end of the allotted time. Encourage them to show their sound maps and describe what they heard. Discuss similarities and differences. Can they guess where others were sitting based on the locations of the sounds?

A variation of this for younger children, or those groups that might be more restless, unhappy to be alone on the woods or apt to wander off would be to sit in a circle in silence, with eyes closed, listening to the sounds of the woodland. Children would raise a finger when they hear something and the adult would choose them in turn to talk about what they heard. A group sound map could be drawn if wanted.

