



Listen to Sounds Travel Underwater

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Date:

Objective:

Sound travels well through air, but it travels even better through water! This easy sound experiment for kids can be done in a jiffy out on the back porch.

Vocabulary Words:

Materials:

- A bucket filled with water
- A large plastic water or soda bottle
- At least 2 kitchen knives
- Scissors or sharp knife to cut the bottle

Background Information:

Activity Instructions:

1. After filling the bucket with water, take a sharp knife or kitchen shears and help your child cut off the bottom of the plastic water bottle. Be sure that the cap is taken off of the bottle.
2. Instruct your child to place the bottle in the water so that the cut bottom is in the water. Your child will then put his or her ear to the top of the bottle to listen.
3. Using the kitchen knives, clang them together to make a sound, but do this in the bucket as your child is listening. What does your child hear?

Conclusion/wrap up:

Your child has probably noted that the sound of the clanging is loud and clear. Water travels faster through water than in the air, and animals that live underwater are able to hear sound clearly. Discuss the results with your child, to teach him or her more about the conduction of sound waves through water.

Further Investigations:

Sources:

From KidsAcadamy: <https://www.kidsacademy.mobi/storytime/sound-science-experiments>

Also look at: <https://team-cartwright.com/sound-science-activities>