

The Five Senses: Outdoor Lesson



Storytelling Version

I Hear With My Own Ear



The five senses are important tools that scientists use to observe and learn about the world.

In this lesson, children will observe their environment using their sense of hearing, indoors and out!

Before You Begin

When you see these icons:



Use cut-outs from the Storytelling Set.



Use a song from the Transitions Playlist.

This lesson has four phases and usually lasts about 1 hour.



Let's Be Curious

 **20 minutes**

- Watch video clips or read the 'Let's Be Curious' section of storybook.
- Play 'I hear with my own ear' indoors
- Wonder: 'How can we use our sense of hearing to learn about our world?'



Let's Plan

 **5 minutes**

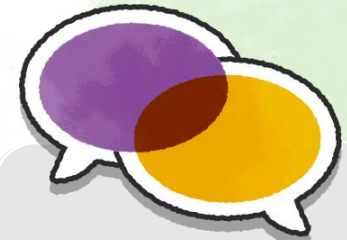
- Decide on the tools you'll need for your investigation.
- Prepare to go outside.



Let's Explore

 **20 minutes**

- Go outdoors to explore sounds in your community.
- Play 'I hear with my little ear.'



Let's Share

 **15 minutes**

- Talk: What did you hear outdoors?
- Draw and label something you heard outdoors.

Learning Goals

This lesson will help children to:

- Understand that ears are scientific tools that help us learn about our environment.
- Use descriptive words to communicate about sounds.
- Be aware that sounds provide information about our environment.

Support for Individual Differences

Sounds are made by vibrating material that we can often see and feel.

Children who have hearing loss can participate in the lesson by looking for and feeling vibrations of objects that are making sounds. What do sounds look and feel like indoors and outdoors?

Before You Begin

Materials You'll Need

- Science Notebook pages (or paper/a blank notebook)
- **Writing tools** (crayons, markers, pencils)
- Storytelling cut-outs (from "The Five Senses: Storytelling Set")
- Explore, Explore! Song (from the Transitions and Routines Song Playlist)

Science Words

Here are some words we will be using as scientists in this lesson:

Senses: The way animals, including people, take in information. Seeing, hearing, touching, tasting, and smelling are commonly used senses for learning about our world.

Hear: To listen with your ears.

Taste: To sense with your mouth.

Touch: To feel something with your skin.

Sight: To see something with your eyes.

Smell: To sense with your nose.

For more words we use as scientists, read "Talking Like a Scientist" in the support materials.

Safety Notes

In this lesson, children close their eyes so they can listen carefully. Remind children that when their eyes are closed, they should be sitting or standing still.

Always:

- Check the weather and dress accordingly.
- Preview the area that you will be exploring for hazards such as harmful garbage or plants.
- Talk to children about the importance of staying with an adult. Set clear boundaries about where children are allowed to explore.
- Ask children what they can do to treat nature kindly (leave flowers in the ground, leave critters in their homes, walk quietly and carefully, etc.).

Learning With Media

In this lesson, children are asked to view media with a purpose to learn, collect important information, and share their learning with others. When you see this prompt, you can choose to teach with **digital** or **printed** media.



Let's Hear a Story!



With Digital Media

Share video clips during the lesson, or use them to prep for storytelling.



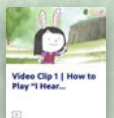
With Printed Media

Use printed character cut-outs to tell the story on a felt board.

Story for this lesson: Elinor and her friends hear many sounds in the forest. They wonder where or what the sounds are coming from. They explore and discover that a woodpecker makes a tapping sound.

This lesson's story comes from the *Elinor Wonders Why* episode, **"Make Music Naturally."** In this episode, Elinor, Olive, and Ari want to join Sir Tapir in a concert, but they don't have any instruments. They learn that nature makes many sounds and can inspire the design of musical instruments.

Find all the video clips and the printable storytelling sets on pbslearningmedia.org





Let's Be Curious!



Today as scientists, we're going to be curious and use our **sense of hearing** to make observations.

Let's read about two parts of the "**Make Music Naturally**" episode. Then, we'll explore sounds in our **environment** – indoors and out.

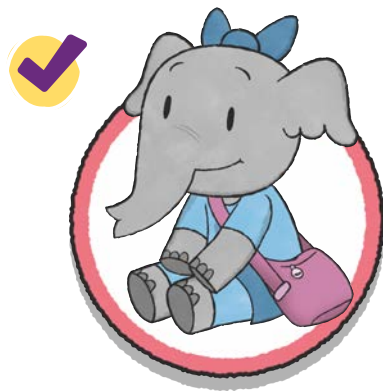


Let's get ready to learn with Elinor and her friends.

Let's Be Curious



We are
ready to
learn.



We have calm
bodies,



watching
eyes,



and listening
ears..

Elinor and her friends are curious about sounds.



Let's find
out:

How do they play "I hear with my
own ear"?



Elinor teaches Ari and Olive how to play a game called, “I Hear With My Own Ear.” To play the game, Elinor closes her eyes, listens carefully, and describes a sound she hears. Then, Olive and Ari tries to find out what’s making the sound.



Let's hear a story!

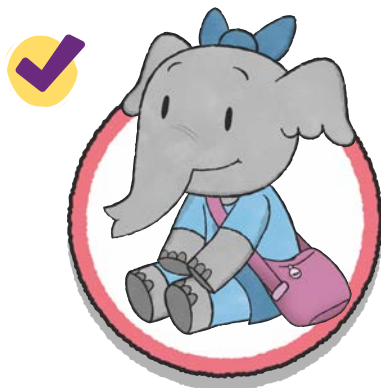
Elinor says she hears a sound that goes “chirp chirp.” Olive and Ari listen closely and make observations. Ari figures out that a cricket was making the sound!

Let's get ready to learn more with Elinor and her friends.

Let's Be Curious



We are
ready to
learn.



We have calm
bodies,



watching
eyes,



and listening
ears.

Elinor, Olive, and Ari hear a sound outdoors and they do not know what it is.



Let's find
out:

What do Elinor, Olive, and Ari hear
when they are outdoors?



Elinor, Ari, and Olive hears something that sounds like “tap-tap-tap.” Ari notices that the sound is coming from the forest, so the kids decide to go to the forest. They walk closer to the sound and discover a little bird tapping its beak on a tree.



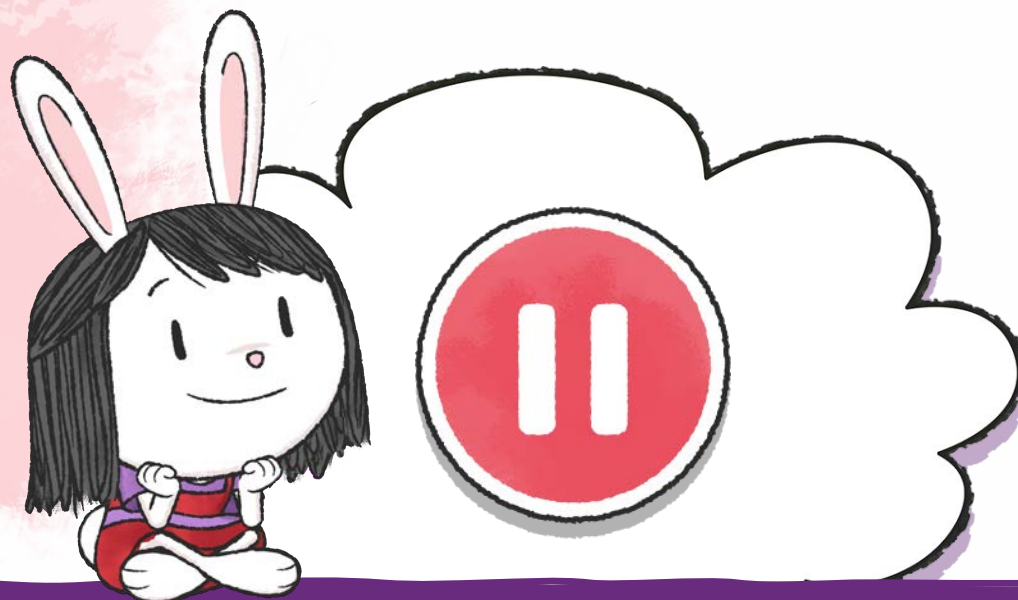
Let's hear a story!

Olive opens her nature book to figure out why the bird is tapping its beak on the tree. She learns that the bird is called a woodpecker and that it taps trees to make holes and get at the insects inside. Olive also learns that woodpeckers have strong and hard beaks. Elinor realizes that when two hard things, like the woodpecker's beak and the tree, come together, the “tap-tap-tap” sound is made.

We listened and learned,
and had some fun.
What did you notice?
Now tell someone!



- ? What did Elinor, Olive, and Ari hear outdoors?
- ? Do you think we will hear the same thing or different things outside?



Here is a good spot to take a break in the lesson
or move outdoors for the next phase.

I Wonder...

Let's Be Curious



How can we use
our **sense of
hearing** to learn
about the world
outdoors?



Let's Plan!

Choose the tools that will help you investigate.

Scientists plan their investigations by deciding what tools will help them answer their question.

How can we use our **sense of hearing** to learn about the world outdoors?



Let's get ready to learn outdoors.



Play the 1-minute "Explore, Explore!" song as you get ready to explore outdoors!



We are ready to go outside!

Let's say the Exploring Club Pledge together.



An Explorer is brave!

(Standing straight, tall, hands on hips)

An Explorer is kind!

(Hands over heart)

An Explorer is curious!

(Point to brain)

Who knows what
we will find!

(Open hands with arms wide)



Safety note:

Remind children about how to explore safely.

(See the Safety Notes in the **Before You Begin** section of the Lesson Guide.)



Let's Explore!





Time to Investigate!

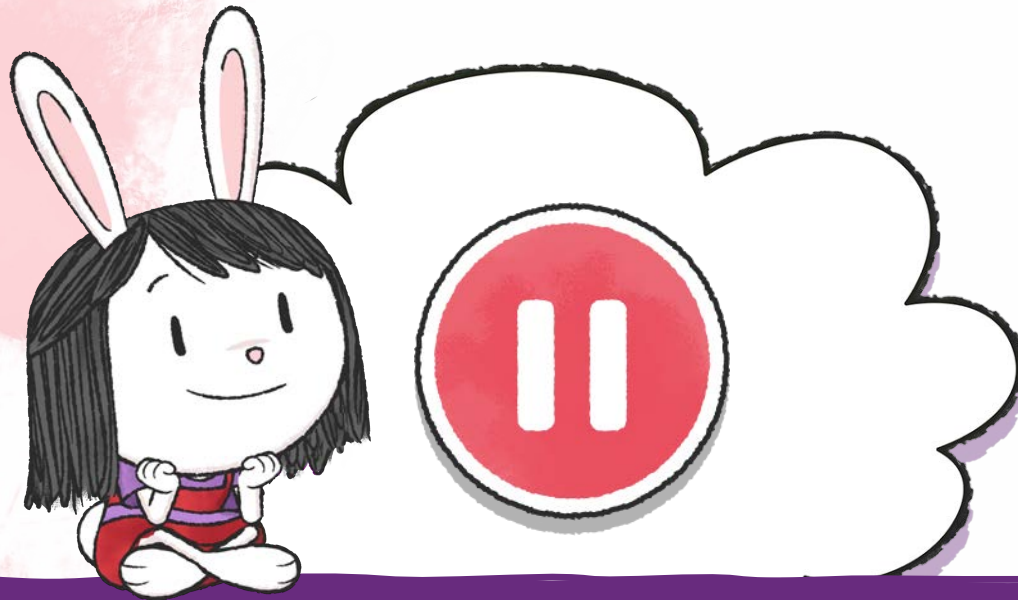
Now let's play "I hear with my own ear" to discover some sounds we hear outdoors.

- 1. Let's close our eyes.**
- 2. We'll listen carefully for 30 seconds.**
- 3. Then, we'll share the sounds we heard.**



- ? What words could you use to describe the sound? (loud, soft, high, low)
- ? What do you think is making that sound?

Great listening, scientists! We observed
some interesting sounds!

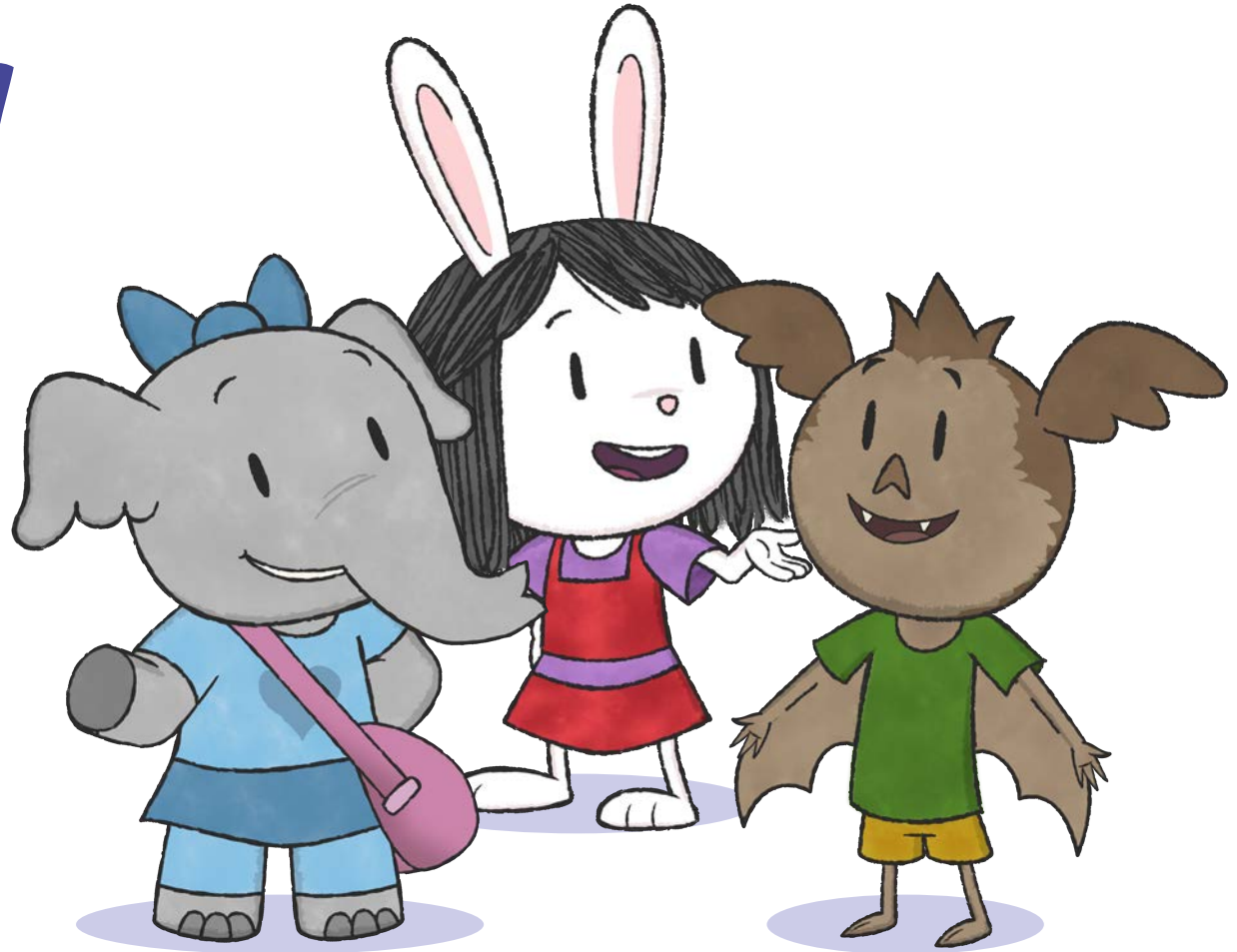


Here is a good spot to take a break in the lesson
or move outdoors for the next phase.

Let's Share!



Scientists share what they discover to teach others about what they learned.



Turn & Talk

Let's Share



Tell us explorers,
What did you learn?
It's time to share.
Now it's your turn!



- ? What did you hear outdoors?
- ? Use words to describe the sound.
- ? Talk like a scientist and share what you observed: *'I heard...'* *'It sounded like...'*

Record Your Data!

Let's Share



Draw a picture of one thing you heard outdoors. Remember to add labels to your drawing.

Let's record it in our notebook!



Let's Share

Draw a picture of one thing you heard outdoors. Remember to add labels to your drawing.





Congratulations Scientists!

You know how to use your sense of hearing to learn more about what is in your environment, indoors and out.

Scientists often use their **sense of hearing** to learn about the world around them. Keep listening and using words to describe what you **hear**.



Ready for more?
Check out the complete
Elinor Wonders Why Collection
of educator resources.



pbslearningmedia.com/collection/elinor



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