

Microbe Magic Experiments

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Your ears and hearing – How sound travels

Did you know that sound is a vibration? When something makes a sound, that sound vibrates through the air in waves and into our ears. Our brain translates the sound waves so we can make out what the sound is and where it is coming from. Try this simple experiment to see sound in action!

What you will need

A bowl about 10 inches in diameter

Cling-film

Salt

Saucepan

Large spoon (like a tablespoon or wooden spoon)

What to do:

- Put a layer of cling-film tightly across the top of the bowl.
- Pull it straight so that it is flat and smooth, with no tears or holes, like a drum.
- Sprinkle a little salt (about a teaspoon) onto the cling-film.
- Sit very close to the bowl and bang the saucepan sharply with the spoon so that you make a loud 'bang'.
- Watch as the sound vibrations from the noise make the salt grains jump on the cling-film!
- Any noise that is loud enough can make this happen as the vibrations travel through the air and hit the flat surface of the cling-film, making the salt jump!