



NATURE SYMPHONY

Schoolyard Sound Mapping



Summary/Purpose: The purpose of this lesson is for students to listen and record sounds. This lesson is versatile and can be performed in a schoolyard, on a field trip, or in any natural area.

Grade Level: 1st – 2nd; 3rd – 5th; 6th – 8th

Time: 20 – 30 minutes

Standards:

Next Generation Science Standards

- LS4 - Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity
 - 2-LS4-1: Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.
- Disciplinary Core Ideas:
 - LS4.D: Biodiversity and Humans

Materials:

Not provided in the Bird Kit:

- Blank sheets of paper
- Paper
- Clipboards

Objectives: Students will:

- work individually and record nature sounds through the creation of a “Nature Symphony.”
- share at least one sound heard and recorded on the “Nature Symphony” during the class discussion.

Procedure:

Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead students to an area where birds are present and different calls can be distinguished. • Students will find an area where they can sit alone and be undisturbed by human activities. Students can choose this spot or the instructor can assign students where to sit. • Explain to students that they will record the spots they here and write a “Nature Symphony.”
Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will listen and take notes. The “Nature Symphony” can be recorded several ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students can make drawings, write poems, or write descriptive words.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Students can map the sounds they hear. The student will mark their spot on a clean sheet of paper using a letter “X.” They will represent the sounds they hear and the locations of these sounds in words and drawings.○ Students can list the diverse sounds they hear. Students should challenge themselves to distinguish as many sounds as possible.● Students will listen to sounds for at least 10 to 15 minutes.
Closure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Prompt students to share the sounds they heard while sitting alone. Appropriate questions to ask students include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Where birds present in your area?○ What bird calls did you hear?○ How do birds vocalize?○ Are birds trying to communicate?○ How can a scientist study bird communication?



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Key Vocabulary:

- Ornithologist
- Symphony

Assessment possibilities: Students should participate in classroom discussion by sharing one or a few of the sounds they heard. Additionally, completed “Nature Symphony” recordings from each student can be used as an assessment tool for this activity.

Extensions: Challenge students to use a several methods of recording sounds listed in the procedure. Students can use these methods at different areas, such as in the schoolyard and in the students’ backyards, and compare the sounds they hear.

Background information: Ornithologists are scientists who study birds. Ornithologists have to rely on their sense of sound while researching in the field. Many birds are elusive to the eye, but their presence can be recorded by successful identification of bird songs and calls.