

SCIENCE STARTERS

Sound



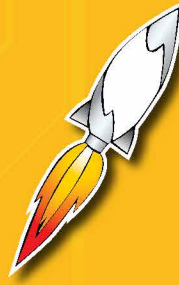


Table of Contents

The Speed of Sound	4
What Is Sound?	6
Hearing	10
Volume and Pitch	12
Echoes and Echolocation	16
Musical Sounds	20
Glossary	22
To Learn More	23
Index	24

The Speed of Sound



You watch the swimmers step onto their starting blocks. Then, "BEEP!" They take off.



You hear the splash
as they dive in. The
crowd cheers. Sound
can quickly set things
into motion!



What Is Sound?

sound waves



Sounds are **vibrations** that touch our ears so we can hear. Sounds travel in waves called **sound waves**.



Sound waves form when something vibrates. They are made up of **energy**.

vibration



Sound needs a **medium** to travel through. Mediums can be air, water, or solid objects such as doors or walls.





For Re

Sound travels fastest
through solids and
slowest through gases.



Make an Instrument

You can see sound waves in action with this rubber band instrument!

What you will need:

- a rubber band
- a box
- two markers

1. Stretch the rubber band around the box.
2. Place the markers 2 inches (5 centimeters) apart under the rubber band. Strum the rubber band and listen to the sound it makes.
3. Pull the markers farther apart and strum the band. What happens to the pitch of the sound? Is it higher or lower?
4. Keep pulling the markers farther apart to test the pitch. What do you notice?

