Making a Sound Map
for Ages 5–12

Paying attention to senses other than sight is a great way to strengthen observational skills and experience a familiar place in a new way.

**ITEMS YOU WILL NEED:**
An outdoor space, paper, writing utensils, and clipboard or something to write on

**OPTIONAL EXTRAS:**
Colored pencils and something to sit on outside

Find a spot to sit outside with your paper and writing tool. Draw yourself in the center of the page. This will become your map to the sounds around you.

Close your eyes and listen to the sounds around you. What do you hear? How far away is it? What direction is that sound coming from? Cup your hands around your ears to hear sounds better and focus on their locations.

Open your eyes and draw or write on your map. For example, if you hear a bird chirping far behind you, you can draw a bird far behind the drawing of you on your map. If water dropped nearby, draw that close to you.

Continue adding to your sound map. Label sounds that are pleasant or unpleasant to you. Finish the activity by imagining you’re a small insect that is being chased by a bird. Starting from the drawing of yourself in the middle, draw the path you would take to run to safety.

**TO FURTHER EXTEND THIS ACTIVITY:**
To learn about how other animals hear sounds check out Fun Kids or listen to a reading of a *No More Noisy Nights* about lots of nighttime noises.