

# SCHOOLYARD LEARNING

## Sound Map

**GRADES: K-6** PRIMARY/JUNIOR - SCIENCE, SOCIAL STUDIES, ART

**LEARNING SKILLS AND WORK HABITS:** Observation, Creating Sense of Place, Mapping

**MATERIALS:** Clipboard, paper, pencil

**ACTIVITY:**

1. Go outside.
2. Find a spot for the class to sit silently in the schoolyard with a journal, or a clipboard and a piece of paper.
3. Students should draw a stick figure of themselves in the middle of the page.
4. Listen for sounds. When students hear a sound, they should create a symbol for that noise and place it on the page where it was heard in relation to themselves.
5. Add the symbol to a legend.
6. Try to get students to carry out the activity in silence for 15 minutes.

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**TEACHER PROMPTS:**

This is a good way to introduce the concept of scale, as some students who hear a noise far away will intuitively want to put the symbol on the sound map farther away from their stick figure.

Students should keep their maps facing the same way during the exercise, so that all of the students' maps can be oriented in the same way for discussion.

The teacher may want to get the students to add a landmark on their map (perhaps the school building) in order to give a starting point for the scale of their maps, and make it easier for all students to orient their maps.

**ACTIVITY OPTIONS:**

Give students larger pieces of paper so that they can demonstrate scale in a better way. The teacher could make an obvious noise and see how students indicate the position of the sound on their respective maps.

