

Nova's Sound Adventure

Learning objective: To understand how sounds are made through vibrations and how they travel.

Read the passage below carefully. Use the word bank to help you understand the tricky words. Answer the questions in the boxes provided. Use the sentence starters to help you.

Nova the owl loves to listen to the forest at night. She knows that all sounds start with a vibration. When an object shakes back and forth very quickly, it makes a sound. For example, when Nova taps her wing against a hollow log, the wood vibrates. This movement pushes the air, creating invisible waves that travel through the air to our ears.

Sound needs a medium to travel through, such as air, water, or solid objects. Without these, sound cannot move. Imagine a drum; when you hit the skin, it wobbles. That wobble is the vibration. The harder you hit the drum, the louder the sound becomes. If you move further away from the drum, the sound gets quieter because the waves have to travel further. Nova uses her big, clever ears to catch these tiny vibrations. Whether it is the rustle of leaves or the hoot of a friend, every sound is just a dance of moving air. Sound is all around us, helping us to learn about the world even when it is dark.

Word bank: vibration · travel · source · ear · volume · sound

1. What does Nova say is the start of every sound? (Literal) (2 marks)

2. Name one material that sound can travel through. (Literal) (2 marks)

3. Why does a drum sound quieter if you are standing far away? (Inferential) (2 marks)

4. What happens to the sound if you hit a drum very hard? (Inferential) (2 marks)

5. Why do you think it is useful for an owl to have good hearing? (Evaluative) (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Nova the owl listening to a drum. Add arrows to show the sound waves moving from the drum to Nova's ears.



Extension challenge: Find three objects in your classroom. Tap them gently to make a sound. Write down which one makes the loudest vibration.