ITEMS NEEDED:
Bowl
Saran wrap
Rice
Metal bowl
Metal spoon

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:
Do you like listening to music? How does the music get from the speaker to your ear? Sound must travel for us to be able to listen to music. Try this activity to learn about how sound moves.

Step 1: Cover the bowl with saran wrap. This represents an ear drum. Sprinkle some rice on top of the Saran wrap, to represent how sound moves. While close to the bowl, use the metal spoon to bang on the metal bowl. The rice will bounce up and down. Do this a few times.

Step 2: Record your observations. What is the rice doing? How does sound move? Do you think it will move differently based on where the bowl is located?

Step 3: Move the metal bowl further away. Bang the spoon and bowl.

Step 4: Record your observations. What did the rice do? Did that change how it moved? What is different? What is the same?

Step 5: Apply. What do you think will happen if you change the materials? Come up with some ideas for other bowl and spoon material you could use. What do you think will change? Try some out and record your observations.

To see a description of how sound moves, watch this video from Khan Academy.

Now that you know a little bit about how sound is produced and how sound travels, enjoy some music. Listen to some of your favorite songs. Play an instrument (or make one to play if you don’t have one). Sing a song to your family or friends.

Project areas are topics that 4-H members can learn about on their own, with a friend, at a club meeting, or at 4-H events. To learn more about the project areas you can explore in 4-H, please use our free resources online at https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/15266.

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