Vibrations of Sound  Activities and Demonstrations

These activities can be used by the teacher or at home to help teach and reinforce the concepts and objectives of this segment. These activities can be explored and used to encourage learning through investigation.

1. Hold one end of a rubber band between your teeth. Pull the other end a little but not enough to break it. Pluck it. What vibrates?

2. Strike a tuning fork. Dip its prongs into a glass of water. What do you observe?

3. Suspend a cork on a string so it can move freely. Strike the tuning fork and hold the prongs against the cork. What happens?

4. Tie several pieces of silverware close together on a string. Hold the two ends of the string to your ears. Have someone tap the utensils so they bump together. What do you hear?

5. Place several grains of rice or seeds on the surface of a can or box. Strike the container with a ruler. What do you observe? Try different size cans or boxes. Do the sounds vary? Do the seeds behave differently?

6. Inflate a balloon. Hold it lightly near your lips as you speak. Speak loudly. Speak more softly. What did you notice?

7. Set an alarm clock. Let it ring while it is sitting on a solid surface such as a desk. Describe the sound. Let it ring again while it is sitting on a rug or other soft surface. How did the sound change? Why did it change?

8. Strike a tuning fork and gently touch its prongs against the side of a glass. What happens?

9. Strike a tuning fork. Hold it near your ear. Touch the tuning fork. What did you feel? What did you hear?

10. Strike a tuning fork. Place the tip of the fork in a small bowl of water. What happened to the water? Why did this occur?