



# Understanding Soundscapes

## **Guiding Questions:**

- What kinds of sounds do we hear when we go outside?
- How do we differentiate biophony, geophony, and anthrophony?
- Which sounds are we more like to hear close, and which far away?
- What sounds do you hear near you, at home?
- Where can we go to hear different sounds and what can we do to hear them better?

**Invitation:** ~ 10 Minutes

Name some of the sounds you might hear when you go outside your house, if you're with a partner or a parent, discuss these together.

## **Key Definitions:**

- Geo = Land
- Bio = Life
- Anthro = Human
- Phony = Sound

## **Categories of Sounds You Will Be Using for the Sound Exploration activity:**

- Geophony = Abiotic (nonliving) sounds - Wind, rocks falling, water rushing
- Biophony = Biotic (living) sound - Animals calling/rustling, trees rustling
- Anthrophony = human made sounds – cars, talking, electricity humming

## **Sound Exploration Activity**

~ 20 Minutes

Find a spot outside where you can be comfortable sitting for 5 minutes. Do not look around, stare straight at your paper as you listen for sounds. Record what sounds you hear and then categorize it as geophony, biophony, or anthrophony on the tables below. When you are done find a new spot and repeat. You will do this a total of 3 times. Please make sure that your locations are safe before you start this activity.







# Understanding Soundscapes

3. The waves of the ocean crashed against the shore.
4. The birds were singing as the sun rose.
5. The neighbor started the lawn mower.
6. Rocks tumbled down a steep cliffside after the earthquake.
7. The wolves howled as the wind blew.
8. Felix the fox is scratching at your door.

## **Reflection:**

*~ 15 Minutes*

Answer the following questions as best you can:

1. What can we do to be more mindful of the sounds we hear?
2. Please specify, do you prefer anthrophony, geophony, or biophony? Please explain your choice. Which sounds?
3. Where do you go to listen?
4. How do you think anthrophony and geophony impacts biophony?
5. How are we as humans impacted by geophony and biophony?



# Understanding Soundscapes

6. Do you hear or perceive sounds differently after this exercise? If so please explain.