CURIOSITY CHALLENGES
SOUND IN SPACE
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Activity 4

THE SCIENCE BIT

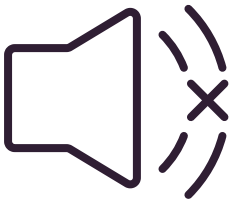
Thanks for helping me with my sound in space curiosity challenge.

I've been so impressed with all your hard work!

It's been really interesting looking into how we communicate with our astronaut teams when they're in space. Before I go, here's a few more interesting sound in space facts for you!

DOES SOUND TRAVEL IN SPACE?

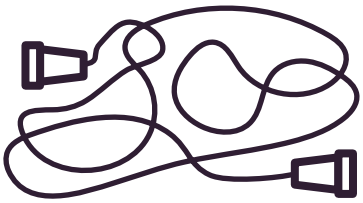
For sound to travel from an object to your ear, it needs particles for vibrations to travel through. However, as space is a vacuum, there are no particles. This means that sound can be created but it can't travel and therefore can't be heard. Even if you stood next to someone, you wouldn't be able to hear them.



HOW CAN WE SEND SOUND INTO SPACE?

We often send messages across long distances on Earth using phones and the internet, but there are no phone lines and no WiFi in space! This is why radios are used.

When you made your string telephone, the vibrations were sent along the string which solved the problem of there being nothing to carry the sound in space. You'd need a very long string for this to work between Earth and space though!



HOW COULD WE COMMUNICATE WITH ALIENS?

In 1977, scientists launched the Voyager Golden Record into space. It contains sounds and images of life on Earth as an example for any aliens that may find it. The men who have walked on the moon have also left their mark, including six American flags, photographs, coins and even a golf club!