

What's That Sound?

Bioacoustics is the study of sounds made or used by living things. As shown in the video, some animals are capable of using sounds in ways humans are not.

You will research into the bioacoustics of particular animals, come up with clues about the animal and the way it uses sound, and use the clues and a recording of the animal sound.

Select an animal from this list:

- Birds—American goldfinch, black-capped chickadee, cardinal, common loon, mourning dove, red-winged blackbird
- Invertebrates—cicada, cricket, snapping shrimp, spiny lobster, honey bees
- Fish—Atlantic croaker, northern seahorse, oyster toadfish, silver perch, goliath grouper,
- Frogs—bullfrog, green tree frog, spring peeper, American spadefoot toad,
- Land mammals—elephant, Mexican free-tailed bat, silver-haired bat, wolf, howling monkey
- Marine mammals—beluga whale, blue whale, humpback whale, orca, California sea lion, harbor seal, long-beaked common dolphin, Pacific white-sided dolphin, Southern sea otter

You are to conduct research to find out more about how a particular animal uses sound. You should also find a computer recording of the sound that they can play.

- Whether the animal uses sounds that are outside the range of human hearing
- Whether the sound is high- or low-pitched, and how that helps the animal
- Whether the animal has a special sound sense, such as echolocation
- Ways in which the animal uses the sounds
- Any special “equipment” the animal has to make or receive the sound (such as a frog’s throat pouch or the oil in a whale’s head)
- Ways scientists study the animal sound or special equipment they use (such as a hydrophone for listening underwater)

Your poster needs to have the required facts from research.