

Listen Up

Deer Ears!

Overview: Enhance hearing with this simple activity. For young students it is a fun example of form and function in animal anatomy.

Materials: For young students you might use photographs or puppets of animals such as deer or rabbit that have large ears.

Time: 5 minutes

Action:

- Circle Up and discuss the reasons why deer or rabbits might need excellent hearing.
- Let's be deer! Demonstrate how to cup hands behind the ears to increase observation with the sense of hearing.
- Try whispering to the group with and without Deer Ears. Does it make a difference?
- Take students on a hike around the school and practice using Deer Ears for appropriate sounds such as bird songs, playground or traffic noise.
- Build a word bank to describe the sounds heard.

Vocabulary: Descriptions of locations: Near/far/next to, high/low, Descriptions of the sounds: loud/soft, grinding, singing, ringing, clicking, roaring, whirring, rustling, flapping, etc.

Management Strategy: If students become noisy while studying in the field, a sudden instruction of Deer Ears may quiet the students and let you refocus attention on the task at hand.

