



# Soundscape Activity

## Sound Bingo

**Theme:** By simply stopping and listening to the sounds around you, you can enhance your enjoyment of and connection with the natural world.

**General Concept:** In this activity, students will engage in a listening exercise through the use of a familiar game, Bingo. Students will use a Bingo card to mark which sounds they heard during the listening exercise, ultimately trying to get five in a row. Students will learn about the types of sounds in their area, natural or human-caused, and identify their favorite or least favorite sounds.

**Logistics:**

Find a place outdoors where the students will be able to hear a variety of sounds, including ones on the Bingo card.

**Materials Needed:**

Pen/Pencil  
Bingo card (page 2 & 3)  
(You can use the Bingo card provided below as is, or you can download the excel file that will allow you to change the types of sounds listed to match your area. Download the excel file at: <http://www.nature.nps.gov/sound/youth>)

**Conduct Listening Exercise**

1. After providing each student with a Bingo card, take them to a selected spot to conduct the listening exercise.
2. Taking their Bingo cards, students should spread out and find a comfortable spot to sit where they can still hear instructions. Minimize sounds (clothing, phones, iPods, etc.).

3. Explain to students that they will be conducting a listening exercise for 3 minutes. \*\*\*If 3 minutes is too long, the length of the listening exercise can be shortened to what you feel is appropriate (probably shouldn't be any shorter than 30 seconds). During this time, they can mark their Bingo cards as they hear a particular sound. If they get 5 in a row (i.e., Bingo), explain that they should wait until the end of the listening exercise to yell, "Bingo!" so that it doesn't interrupt other students trying to listen.
4. Instruct the students to close eyes and begin listening to all the sounds around them.

5. Once 3 minutes (or another determined time) have expired, instruct students to stop. At that point, if any "Bingos" have been yelled, have those students list the sounds they heard to give them Bingo.
6. Ask the rest of the group if anyone heard any other sounds not yet listed.

**Discussion**

1. Ask the students to flip over their Bingo cards and answer the four questions provided.
2. Discuss each question as a larger group.



A visitor in Yosemite National Park enjoys the sounds of nature. NPS Photo.



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

*The Natural Sounds Program works to protect, maintain, or restore acoustical environments throughout the National Park System. We fulfill this mission by working in partnership with parks and others to increase scientific and public understanding of the value and character of soundscapes and to eliminate or minimize noise intrusions.*

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

B	I	N	G	O
HELICOPTER	WATER	REPTILE	CAR ALARM	TALKING
RODENT	MUSIC	BICYCLE	CRYING	BIRD
TRUCK	GENERATOR		FOOTSTEPS	INSECT
MILITARY JET	YELLING	RAIN	AIRPLANE	CAR
MOTORCYCLE	DOOR SLAM	DOG	AMPHIBIAN	WIND

What sounds do you hear? Listen carefully. Mark on this card each time you hear one of the sounds listed.

**Get 5 in a row (vertical, horizontal, or diagonal) to win!**  
 Flip over card to answer a few questions about what you heard.

## Discussion Questions

During the listening exercise:

1. What was your favorite sound(s) that you heard?

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2. What was your least favorite sound(s) that you heard?

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3. What was the loudest sound(s) that you heard?

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4. What was the quietest sound(s) that you heard?

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