PLANT HEROES

SOUNDSCAPES JOURNAL

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A program of the

American Public Gardens Association

In partnership with the

FOREST SERVICE
U S
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WHO (OR WHAT) MAKES NOISE HERE?

Sound is a part of every ecosystem and can tell us a lot about a place. For example, a forest will sound very different from a city or a desert.

All of the sounds that are made in a particular place during a particular length of time are called a soundscape.

Scientists that study sounds categorize sounds into three categories:

Anthrophony, or human-made sounds, such as a car going by or people talking

Biophony, or animal sounds, such as a bird singing

Geophony, or natural sounds from nonliving things, such as wind, rain, or waves
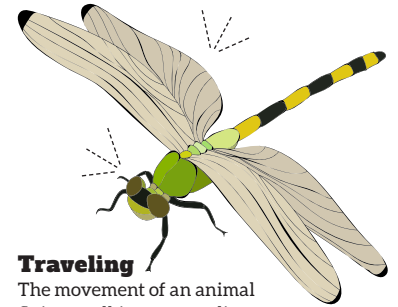
Follow the instructions on the next page to explore the sounds of the place you are in today.

Animals—and in particular, insects and birds—make a lot of sounds. Animal sounds are all around—think of the crunch of a leaf that an ant walks over; or the humming of a chorus of cicadas finding their mates; or the warning call of a chickadee; or the buzz of a bee flying around to pollinate flowers. Below are some reasons that animals might be making sounds.

Communicating
An animal may call to another animal to find them or to warn them of danger.

Traveling
The movement of an animal flying, walking, or crawling can create sound.

Working
An animal carrying food or nest building can also create sound.

Did you hear any animal sounds?

_____

If yes, why do you think the animal was making the sound?

_____

_____

_____

Date & Time

_____

Place

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

HOW MANY SOUNDS DID YOU HEAR IN EACH CATEGORY?

Anthrophony
(human-made sounds)

Biophony
(animal sounds)

Geophony
(natural sounds from nonliving things)

Which type of sound did you hear the most?

_____

_____

_____

Did any of the sounds surprise you?

_____

_____

What sound did you like the most?
What did you like the least?

_____

_____

_____

What did the sounds tell you about your environment?

_____

_____

DISCOVER THE SOUNDSCAPES AROUND YOU!

This activity is better to do outdoors, but if you are unable to go outside, perhaps you can ask an adult to help you open a window.

1 Find a spot to listen to the sounds.

2 Before you start to listen, what sounds do you think you will hear?

_____

_____

3 If you have a timer, set it for 3 minutes.

4 Listen to the sounds around you. Write down each new sound you hear on the next page.

5 If you a hear a sound more than once, put a tally mark next to the sound that you heard.