Name: _____

What Made That Sound?

The age-old question: If a tree falls when no one is around, does it make a sound?

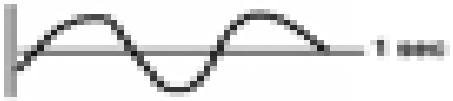
What is sound? Sound is what the human ear hears when something moves or vibrates. The vibration creates a sound wave in the air. Continuous sounds are made when something vibrates back and forth. A sudden bang sends out a single, sharp pulse of sound, called a shock wave. A large enough shock wave can knock people over.

Sounds can be loud or soft, high or low. The sounds are different because the sound waves are different frequencies. Frequency is the number of vibrations made in a second. High notes have a higher frequency than low notes. Different sounds have different shapes.

Directions: Match the sound wave with its proper name.

A.

☐ soft, high note

B. 

☐ soft, low note

C.

☐ loud, high note

D.

☐ loud, low note

Do the vibrations in the air create an actual sound, or does a receptacle, such as the human ear, need to detect and feel the vibrations in order for a sound to be produced? This is an on-going question. What do you think?

_____

_____

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