SOUND VIBRATIONS
ACTIVITY 1: SURROUND SOUND
From *Science in a Nutshell*

Westminster College

OBJECTIVE:
To identify various sounds and to describe how they are different and how they are alike.

MATERIALS:
audio tape /tape recorder
journal page for Activity 1
room with a window

BACKGROUND:
Have you ever stopped and listened to all of the sounds around you? Our surroundings are seldom absolutely quiet. Even in a very quiet room, if you listen carefully enough, you will hear sounds.

The highness or lowness (deepness) of a sound is called *pitch.* A squeak has a high pitch; a foghorn has a low pitch. Can you think of other examples?

In this activity, you will listen and describe the differences in sounds you hear. You will then sort these sounds into different groups.

EXPERIMENT:
1. Open a window and close your eyes for 1 minute. Listen carefully for as many different indoor and outdoor sounds as you can.
2. On the Journal Page for Activity 1, list all the sounds you hear.
3. Examine your list of sounds. Did you like all the sounds you heard? Were some sounds loud? Did you hear anything with a low pitch?
4. On your journal page, sort the sounds into two groups.
5. How are the sounds in Group 1 alike?
   How are the sounds in Group 2 alike?
   Record your answers in your journal.
6. In what other ways can you sort the sounds? List your ideas in the journal.

IN A NUTSHELL:
We are always surrounded by many different sounds. Sounds can be loud or soft, high or low, pleasing or annoying, and natural or man-made.

CRACKING THE NUT:
Make a tape recording of interesting sounds. Can you friends correctly identify each sound?