4th Grade Unit 4: Physical Science

Waves and Sound- Sound, Waves, & Communication

Duration: 3-6 Weeks

Desired Results ESTABLISHED GOALS/ STANDARDS: Transfer **PS4-1** Meaning **ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS: Crosscutting Concepts** Develop a model of waves to describe patterns in terms of amplitude and Students will understand that... wavelength and that waves can cause • Students identify patterns about the relationship between the tension of the string objects to move. [Clarification Statement: and the quality of the sound it produces. Students also investigate patterns in the how Examples of models could include different materials affect the quality of the sound that is transmitted. diagrams, analogies, and physical models Students consider the effect of vibrations on the movement of distant objects. • using wire to illustrate wavelength and Students identify and analyze the oscilloscope patterns made by sounds with low and • amplitude of waves.] [Assessment high pitches. Boundary: Assessment does not include interference effects, electromagnetic Meaning waves, non-periodic waves, or quantitative models of amplitude and wavelength.] Acquisition **Science and Engineering Practices Disciplinary Core Ideas** Students will be skilled at... **PS4-3** Students will know... Students document their Generate and compare multiple solutions • that use patterns to transfer information.* • Sounds aren't something we can see understanding of how vibrations **IClarification Statement: Examples of** or touch, and so it's easy to dismiss travel using a model of their paper solutions could include drums sending them as not fully real. But if you've cup telephones. Students then coded information through sound waves, experienced an echo before, then design their own series of using a grid of 1's and 0's representing clearly there is something interesting investigations to figure out how to black and white to send information about and very real about sound--we can make their telephone work better in a picture, and using Morse code to send even feel and see that sound has different circumstances. Students text.] something to do with vibrations. construct an explanation of how the Students observe a relationship telephone works. Students extend 4-ETS1-2 between sound and vibration, and the lesson by developing a way to Generate and compare multiple possible solutions to a problem based on how well through the activity, discover send a message using a pattern of

each is likely to meet the criteria and constraints of the problem.

4-ETS1-3

Plan and carry out fair tests in which variables are controlled and failure points are considered to identify aspects of a model or prototype that can be improved. evidence that sound isn't merely related to vibrations, but perhaps, is a vibration. DCIs: Foundational for PS4.A

- Sound can travel through lots of different materials: through water, through string... it's possible to even feel the vibrations in the string, pinch the string, and stop the vibrations from reaching the other side. It would seem that sound is a vibration that must travel from one place to another. So does that mean sound is vibrating the air? (It is.) And what happens if there is no air? (There is no sound!) DCIs: PS4.A
- Some sounds are very high-pitched, while others are low-pitched. For example, young people can even hear certain high-pitched sounds that adults can no longer hear. What makes one sound high and another low? By examining some musical instruments played in slow motion, we can begin to detect some differences in the vibrations. Special instruments enable us to visualize the resulting air vibrations, and reveal that sound vibrations travel as waves in the air. Students discover that the difference between high and low-pitched sounds has to do with the length of these waves ("wavelength"). DCIs: PS4.A

sounds.

- Students conduct investigations with balloons to experience the vibrations caused by sound of their voices. Students construct an explanation that sound is a vibration. Students then develop a model to explain how sound travels through a medium and how it can cause distant objects to move.
- Students analyze and interpret data from oscilloscopes to determine how wavelengths differ between high and low pitch sounds. Students make claims and argue from evidence about which wavelength patterns were generated from different pitches. Students then use a rope to model waves created by different pitches and begin to explore the relationship between wavelength and frequency.

Inquiry Questions:

- 1. How far can a whisper travel?
- 2. What would happen if you screamed in outer space?
- 3. Why are some sounds high and some sounds low?

Evidence		
Evaluation Criteria	Assessment Evidence	
	PERFORMANCE TASK(S):	
	OTHER EVIDENCE:	
	Unit assessment	
Learning Plan		
Summary of Key Learning Events and Instruction		