

Why Teach About Sound and Noise?

Sounds are all around us; especially in our densely populated, transit-oriented, and always-changing city. Sounds are waves that can travel through air, water, and solid objects. Sound can be used as a form of communication, learning, for safety, and as means of entertainment. Though these sounds are important, sounds can also become or be considered unwanted or unpleasant. These loud and unwanted sounds are known as noise. Noise happens to be the number one quality of life issue in New York City and not everyone is aware of the consequences associated with it.

Sound is relevant not only to everyday urban and suburban life but is especially relevant to school life. Noise in the classroom, hallway, and other learning environments can disrupt student learning and the abilities to concentrate and pay attention. Through this module, students will be able to understand and distinguish between sound and noise. They will see how it not only affects their own lives, but also the lives of others and even other species. Students will discover the New York City Noise Code, how to handle and report noise related matters, and the impacts sound and noise have on public health and the environment.

This module is curated to align with the New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards and the Amplify Science Curriculum, refer to the module's **Standards Alignment** document for more information. This module connects sound-related concepts to local phenomena; specifically using New York City as the primary case study and emphasizing place-based learning to encourage student and educator engagement with all that pertains to sound and noise within our urban environment. All the lessons within the Sound and Noise Module can be taught in and out of the classroom, and teachers have the flexibility to teach some or all lessons within the module. Each lesson is designed and broken down into eight parts: description, objectives, vocabulary, materials, background information, method, discussion, and extensions. Some lessons also include worksheets and activities related to the specific topic. Be sure to reference the **Sound and Noise Introduction Presentation**, **Sound and Noise Glossary**, and **Additional Sound and Noise Resources**. We hope this module helps you and your students learn more about sound and noise in your environment!

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