



This is a great experiment for K – 1st Grade.

The students are amazed that they really can “see” sound. It’s also a 5-item experiment using items that you likely already have in your kitchen.

As you can imagine, this experiment can be pretty exciting for young children because they get to bang on a pan like it’s a drum. Which also means you’ll get some major “fun parent or teacher” points.

Supplies Needed

- Large Bowl
- Plastic Wrap
- 1 teaspoon Uncooked Rice
- Metal Pan (Cookie Sheets or Pans are good options, but they must be metal)
- Metal Spoon

Experiment Instructions

Step 1 – Tear off a piece of plastic wrap big enough to cover the top of the bowl.

Step 2 – Secure the plastic wrap over the bowl. Make sure that the plastic wrap is very tight.

Step 3 – Pour 1 teaspoon of uncooked rice on the top of the plastic wrap.

Step 4 – Hold the metal pan in the air and position it next to the bowl.

Step 5 – Take the metal spoon and bang on the metal pan like a drum and watch what happens to the rice.

How Does the Experiment Work?

The rice moves and jumps around because of the sound waves that are caused when the spoon hits the pan. These sound waves travel through the air and when they reach the plastic wrap it vibrates causing the rice to move. The sound waves are also what allow us to hear the noise of the spoon hitting the pan