

Deafness

Discussion

List the things you could not do if you were profoundly deaf. (Listen to music, communicate with mobile phones, learn to play an instrument? Learn to speak?)

List the important times in your day when you rely on your ears to tell you what to do. (School bells, instructions from teachers/parents, waking up relying on alarms, emergency sirens, answering phone calls.)

Write a poem describing all the sounds you would miss if you were profoundly deaf.

How could you show friendship to someone who is profoundly deaf. Stare at them? Shout at them? Show expression? Learn some signing? What important first few signs would you try to learn?



Deafness

Do you know anyone who is deaf? Are they old, young, were they born deaf?

Find out about famous people who were deaf...Beethoven, Helen Keller, Jack Ashley Evelyn Glennie.

People can be profoundly deaf or hard of hearing.

Visit the web site for RNID (www.rnid.org.uk) and find out how deaf people communicate using sign language (BSL: British Sign Language) and finger spelling.

Learn how to fingerspell the alphabet and finger spell your name and communicate with your friend.

How can hearing aids help deafness and what other aids do deaf people need. (Sub-titles, signing interpreter, lip-reading)

Games

A classroom with deaf pupils is quiet as they do not tend to speak to each other, try spending an hour just communicating with out the use of any sound. Try using signing, writing, or finger spelling only.

Try communicating what you did yesterday with a picture story only (cartoon style) and ask a friend to retell what you did.

Find out about communication using semaphore, flag signalling and Morse code. Using a torch, signal your own message to a friend using Morse code.

Invent series of 'smiley – faces' to show expression i.e. happy, sad, confused, angry, surprised, or tired.

Would you show the different moods using different colours?

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Sound and Vibration

Is it possible to feel sound? Very low notes on instruments can cause you to experience the vibration

Speak into drum skin and feel vibrations. Play stringed instrument and feel vibration on the body.

Touch piano frame when being played.

Speak across bowl of water to see sound vibrations as ripples.

Make a model of how the vibrations travel from out side your ear through your ear drum and into your middle ear.

Find out how animals communicate using sound; bats, dolphins and the ability of dogs to hear higher sounds than humans.

Health and hearing

Very loud noise can damage our ears. Which people work with high levels of noise? (Consider personal stereos and machinery). How should they protect their hearing? (Turning down volume, wearing ear plugs and ear muffs).

Try wearing earplugs and ear muffs to hear the difference they make.

Reducing noise pollution. How can we make less noise? Sound insulation, double glazing and silencers on machinery.

Spell your name using the finger spelling alphabet.

