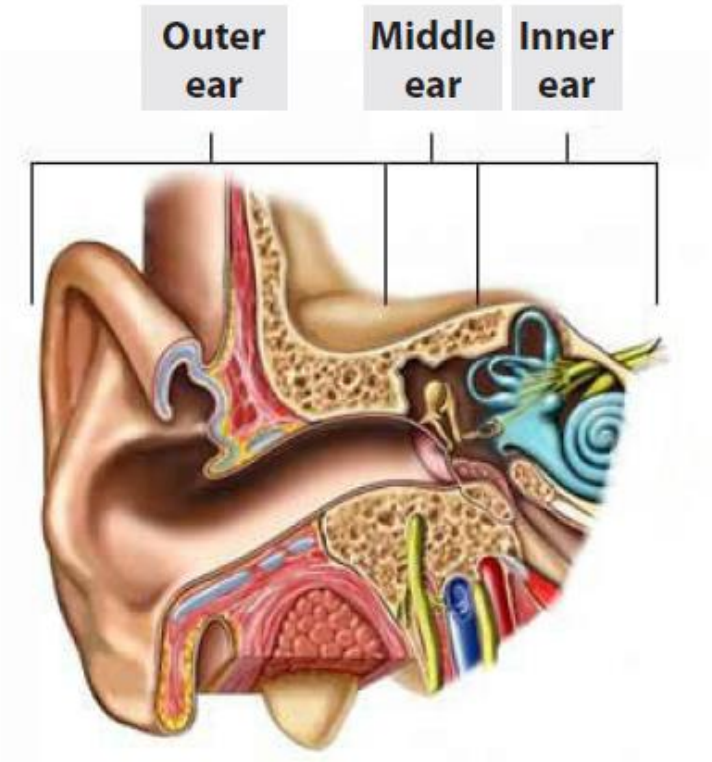
The Ear Reading comprehension



Just think for a minute what it would be like if you couldn't hear. You couldn't listen to music, hear a dog bark, hear the phone ring or hear your friends talking to you. As you can see your ears are important so you need to look after them.

Sound is measured in a measurement called decibels. Sounds over 90 decibels can seriously damage your ears.

How do your ears work? Well first of all there are three parts to your ear: the outer ear, the middle ear and the inner ear. The outer ear is the bit you can see including the ear canal which acts as a funnel to collect the sound waves and send them to your ear drum.

The middle ear is a small space filled with air on the inside of your ear drum. In this part of the ear there are three tiny bones called the hammer, anvil and stirrup. These bones are used to move the sound waves and vibrations to the cochlea. The cochlea is a piece of the ear that looks like a shell.

The inner ear has fluid in it which moves due to the vibrations and moves thousands of tiny hairs on the outside of the cochlea. There are about 17,000 tiny hairs in each ear. These hair cells create an electrical signal which is sent along the auditory nerve to the brain. The brain then works out what you are hearing. It is all very clever.

The liquid in your ear also helps to keep your balance, so your ears are still hearing things even when you are asleep. Ears may be small but they do very important jobs for us so look after them.

Read the information sheet about the ear on the previous page and then answer the questions.

a) What is sound measured in? _____

b) Think of a sound that is high pitched. _____

c) Think of a sound that is low pitched. _____

d) Underline the correct answer. There are:

1. 4 parts to your ear. **2.** 3 parts to your ear.

3. 5 parts to your ear. **4.** 2 parts to your ear.

e) What are the three tiny bones called in the middle part of your ear?

_____

f) What does the cochlea look like? _____

g) How many hairs are there in each ear? _____

h) Fill in the missing number: Sounds over _____ decibels could seriously damage your ears.

i) Unscramble these words:

r i o v t n a b i __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __

n e c b a l a __ __ __ __ __ __ __

q i u l d i __ __ __ __ __ __