

ECHOES

KEY IDEAS

- Sound can be reflected from some surfaces
- Echoes occur when sound bounces back from a surface which is some distance away

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS

- When have you heard an echo?
- Why do you think echoes happen?
- What makes echoes happen in some places and not others?

SOUNDS TRAVEL OUTWARDS

- Sound vibrations travel in all direction away from the source of the sound in a manner similar to the ripples of water created when a stone is thrown into a pond.
- Sounds however, travel in all directions, not just outwards, but upwards and downwards as well.

SOUND CAN BE REFLECTED FROM SOME SURFACES

- Sound travels much more slowly than light.
- We experience this when we see lightning long before we hear the sound of the thunder clap which actually happens at the same time.
- Sounds can be reflected from a solid surface and produce an echo (similar to light reflected by a mirror).
- We hear many sounds because of reflections.
- Echoes occur only when they bounce back from a surface that is some distance away.
- You may hear echoes when you are in a cave or a large hall.

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