

## **Facilitator Guide**

Duration: 90 Minutes Suitable for ages 7-14

Mom is sleeping off a bad headache, but you have to practice your piano for your recital tomorrow. How can you sound proof your room so you don't wake mom up and make her very angry?

## Equipment per team:



Plus a choice of up to 3 of the following:



Tape

Printed Resources:

Engineer Flashcards

Smart Phone

Install 'sound meter' app

Instruction sheets (page 6)

Hot Glue

(optional but recommended)

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(optional)

Scissors

## Activity 1: Engineer Game

## Duration: 20 minutes

This activity uses the printed Engineer cards from Appendix A.

## Option 1: Quiz

This version is best suited for ages 7-8 or smaller groups < 5

Use roughly half of the deck. Review the types of engineer with the group then divide into teams and ask questions such as which engineer works with chemicals? Or name one thing a mechanical engineer might do. Winning team is the one who gets the most correct answers!

## Option 2: "Does/is your Engineer..."

Each participant is given one card and becomes that type of engineer.

Divide the room into two halves. One side is 'yes' and one side is 'No'. The participants should then decide if the statement you read out applies to them (yes) or not (no) and move to that side of the room. Some questions have a definite correct answer as shown on their card and some will require them to think more deeply.

Easy	<ul> <li>Use a screwdriver?</li> <li>Use a computer?</li> <li>Sometimes work outside?</li> <li>Design a place to live?</li> <li>A man or a woman? (Follow up – do they have to be that gender?)</li> </ul>	
Medium	<ul> <li>Drive a train?</li> <li>Help you turn on the lights?</li> <li>Care about the environment?</li> <li>Ever wear a hardhat or lab coat?</li> <li>Solve problems?</li> </ul>	
Harder (Age12-14)	<ul> <li>Do something to allow you to brush your teeth in the morning?</li> <li>Work in a team?</li> <li>Use Math?/Chemistry?/ Physics?</li> </ul>	

Examples:

#### Key learning outcomes

- There are many types of engineers and some have very specific and interesting jobs.
- We use things every day that were designed by engineers, and most things need more than one type of engineer working together.



## Activity 2: Making Waves

Duration: 15 Minutes

We're used to making things louder; for example we always want better speakers to play music louder. Engineers also spend a lot of time trying to make things quieter.

What are some examples in this room?

- windows are double paned to reduce outside noise coming in
- floors are made with some sponginess to absorb the footfall and reduce some noise

#### What is noise?

If noise is unwanted sound, then what is sound?

Sound is caused by tiny vibrations in the air, called sound waves. The shape of these waves and their reactions when they hit different materials is why we hear different sounds.

Participants should join hands to form a circle along which the 'wave' can be passed. Demonstrate and explain what each of the following represents then play a game passing the wave around the circle and calling out the commands.

High	A high pitched sound comes from when the wave peaks are close together.	Everyone take a step closer together and pass the sound wave around the circle.
Low	A low pitched sound is when the wave peaks are far apart.	Everyone take a step back so they are further apart
Amplify	The amplitude it how high the wave is. Amplifying a wave makes it sound louder.	Arms wave as high and low as possible (really high and down to ground)
Dampen	Dampening reduces the height of the wave and makes it quieter.	Lock elbows to sides to make low height.
Reflect	Sounds reflect off hard surfaces, these make echoes. The more they reflect the more energy they lose and the quieter they get.	Wave goes back the other way
Absorb	Most materials don't absorb sound waves fully, they just cause a damping effect. A perfect sound absorber would not allow the sound the pass through at all.	Stop the wave from passing through.
Transmit	The sound wave passes through the material without any change.	No action



## **Activity 3: Measuring Noise**

Duration: 5 minutes

Sound is measured in Decibels. The decibel scale is not like the scale on a ruler, which is a linear scale i.e. goes up evenly. Instead it is to the power of ten, so 2 decibels is 10 times as loud as 1 decibel!

Take an ambient noise measurement (when everyone is silent) and a loud noise (everyone makes as much noise as possible). Explain that it is not possible to reach zero as there are small sounds all around us!

Some useful examples of average decibel levels are:

Ticking watch	20dB
Normal conversation	60dB
Busy Street	80dB
Thunder	120dB



## Activity 4: Sound Proof Room Building activity

Duration: 30 minutes

Before starting demonstrate the 'beep sound' and the test layout.

Participants should be split into groups of 2-3 and provided with a box and an instruction sheet. They should be given up to 5 minutes to choose their additional materials.

The premise of this activity is that Mom has a really bad headache and wants to sleep it off but your piano recital is tomorrow and you need to practice! How can you insulate your bedroom to keep the sound in so you don't wake Mom?

#### Aim

Reduce the noise of the beep as much as possible.

Rules:

- 1. Choice of up to 3 materials only and once collected materials cannot be exchanged!
- 2. Materials may only be attached to the INSIDE of the box, not the outside.
- 3. You must leave room for the speaker inside the box.

Groups can use their materials any way they choose so long as they do not break the rules. Older participants who have cell phones may use them to create sound for individual group testing, though the final test will be kept uniform for fairness.

Groups may submit their design for testing after 10 minutes to speed up the test process.





## Instructions

Mom has a really bad headache and wants to sleep it off, but your Violin recital is tomorrow and you need to practice! How can you sound proof your bedroom to keep the sound in so you don't wake Mom?

#### Equipment:



#### Rules

- 1. Choice of up to 3 of the materials on the right only and once chosen materials cannot be changed!
- 2. Materials may only be attached to the INSIDE of the box, not the outside.
- 3. You must leave room for the speaker inside the box.

#### Things to think about:

- Which materials can you to use to reflect or absorb the sound?
- How can you attach the materials to the box to make the sound quieter?

# Test set up: Speaker

Box



## **Testing and Wrap Up Discussion**

Duration: 25 minutes

For each group ask a team volunteer to explain their design. Set it up for testing by placing the speaker inside underneath the box and the cell phone at a set distance away (closer is better to reduce sound dissipation over distance).

Make sure the room is at ambient sound levels before the test starts. Record each teams dB output.

Questions:	Reflection:
What were the differences between the quietest and loudest bedrooms?	The aim is to show that the material choses made a big difference. The best combinations should be ones that utilise both reflective and absorbing materials.
How did the way the materials were applied change the effectiveness?	Multiple different designs works, there is no single right answer- engineering allows room for creativity! More surface area for reflection improves the ability to dampen the noise.
Did any teams change their design during building?	Often engineering requires design changes; Engineers do a lot of iterative design to make their products better. They also learn from their mistakes so being wrong the first time isn't a bad thing!
Would this be a practical solution for your real bedroom?	Maybe not- how many teams left room for a person and furniture to fit into their 'bedroom '? Brainstorm other ideas (get mom some noise cancelling headphones or ear plugs!)
What kind of skills did you use that would be important for an engineer to have?	The skills will be dependent on the group. Try to reflect on the activity and note any good examples you saw of these. Teamwork- Working together as a team to build the rover. Creativity-To come up with ideas for how to put the materials into the box Problem solving- To figure out why the design isn't working and fix it Resourcefulness- Being able to use the materials provided Helping others- letting mom sleep undisturbed! Hands on skills-Being able to build something from scratch.



As a structural engineer, Steve makes safety a priority so that his large structures and buildings stay up! Supersizing

As an electrical engineer, Agnes creates circuits that send signals and make electronic products, like cell phones and street lights, work.

SUPER POWER Electricity TOOLS ð





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Appendix A

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Shrink Ray

Q







make them faster and safer.

Flight



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