

Whisper dishes



Location

Ground floor, Move it exhibition

In a nutshell

See how your whispers can travel and be understood over great distances using our special dishes.

What to do

One person stands at each dish and if one whispers into the loop towards the dish the other person will be able to clearly hear them. A whispered conversation can occur using the dishes. Try standing between the two dishes when other people are using them. You should be able to listen in on their conversation!

Time Required

KS1 & KS2 2 minutes per student.

What's happening?

Usually when we speak the sound spreads out in all directions. The concave shape of the dish focuses and directs your whisper towards the other dish. Your message bounces off the other dish, focusing the sound in front of your friend, so they can hear it easily. Whisper dishes or parabolic acoustic mirrors were used prior to World War II and the invention of radar on the coasts of Great Britain. They were used to detect incoming enemy aircraft by the sound of their engines.

Curriculum links

KS1/2	<p>Science - Sound (Yr 4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identify how sounds are made, associating some of them with something vibrating - recognise that vibrations from sounds travel through a medium to the ear <p>English - Spoken language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - give well-structured descriptions, explanations and narratives for different purposes, including for expressing feelings - use spoken language to develop understanding through speculating, hypothesising, imagining and exploring ideas <p>History - Key stage 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - events beyond living memory that are significant nationally or globally [for example, the Great Fire of London, the first aeroplane flight or events commemorated through festivals or anniversaries] <p>History - Key stage 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a study of an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066
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Relates to:

Workshops & Theme Days	Shows	Trails	Other exhibits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Body basics (KS1) • Light and shadow (KS2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boggling brains (KS2 upper) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeing sounds • Hearing range • Sound bite • Vocal vowels

