

# Curious Sounds

Session plan for an online sound making activity



Explore the fascinating sounds that can be made with everyday household items. Curious Sounds works well in online group workshop settings. Participants are able to discover, share and enjoy the variety of unusual sounds that can be made by everyday household items.

Created as part of *The Bridge Project*.  
A collaboration between **This New Ground** and **Lifesize**.

**This  
New  
Ground**

**Lifesize**



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ENGLAND**

# Curious Sounds Activity

**“This activity makes you think of all different sounds and where they come from. It makes you think and listen at the same time. Some objects make similar sounds so it can be hard to know the answer but that’s what makes you think!”**

- TNG Member Martin

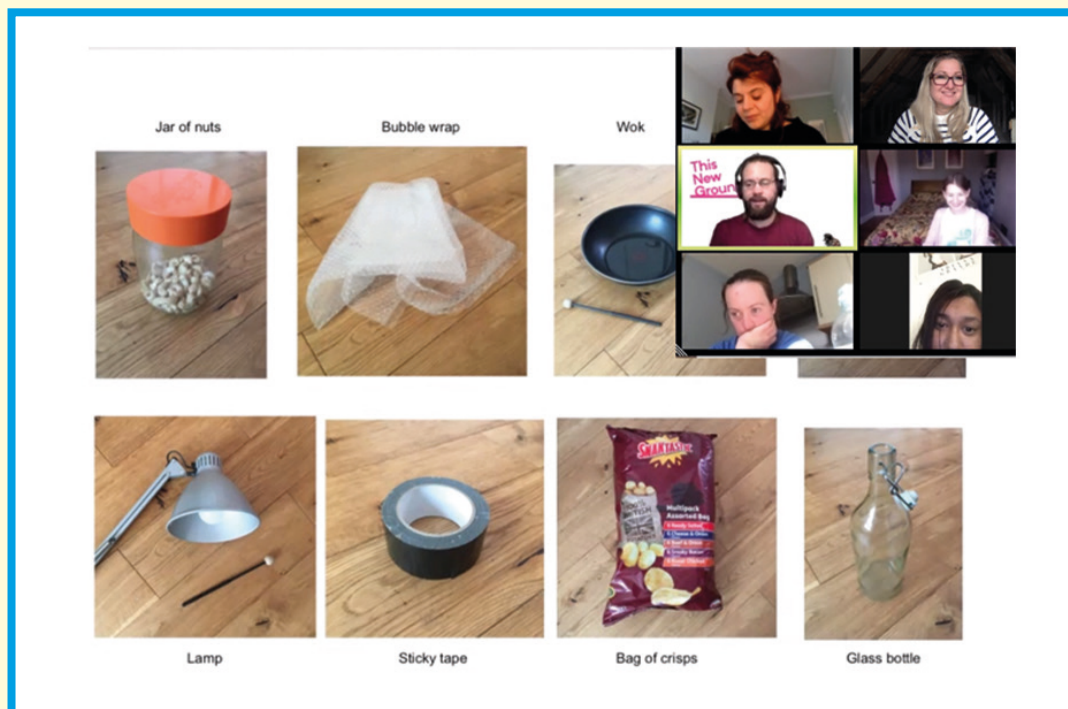
**“Fishing around my house for sounds made me feel like Tarzan in the jungle. I love this activity because it makes your brain think. ”**

- TNG Member Rebecca

**“I had fun recording sounds in my house!”**

- TNG Member Kelly

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TNG members taking part in the Curious Sounds Activity online

# How to play Curious Sounds

## Option one: Scavenger Hunt warm up game

### Activity purpose:

Encourages active listening, promotes discussions around sound texture.

### Items needed for the activity:

This activity works well with people participating in an online group video call. It can also be modified for users who only have access to an audio connection. Participants will need access to everyday household sound making items.

- 1) Tell participants: “We are going to find an object near to you that makes an interesting sound! It could be next to you, in the room, or in a nearby room. It’s really important that when you find the object that makes the sound you don’t show this item on camera. We are going to guess what is making the sound when we hear it!”

*Facilitator notes : Allow a few minutes for everyone to find an object.*

- 2) Tell participants: “We are going to take it in turns to share our sound with the group, making sure that the object that is making the sound doesn’t appear on camera.”

*Facilitator notes: It may help during this activity if the participant who is making the sound can turn their camera off, and ideally if everyone else is muted.*

- 3) Everyone in the group has a turn making their sound while other group members take turns guessing what object is being used to make the sound.

## Option two: creating a Curious Sounds quiz over several sessions

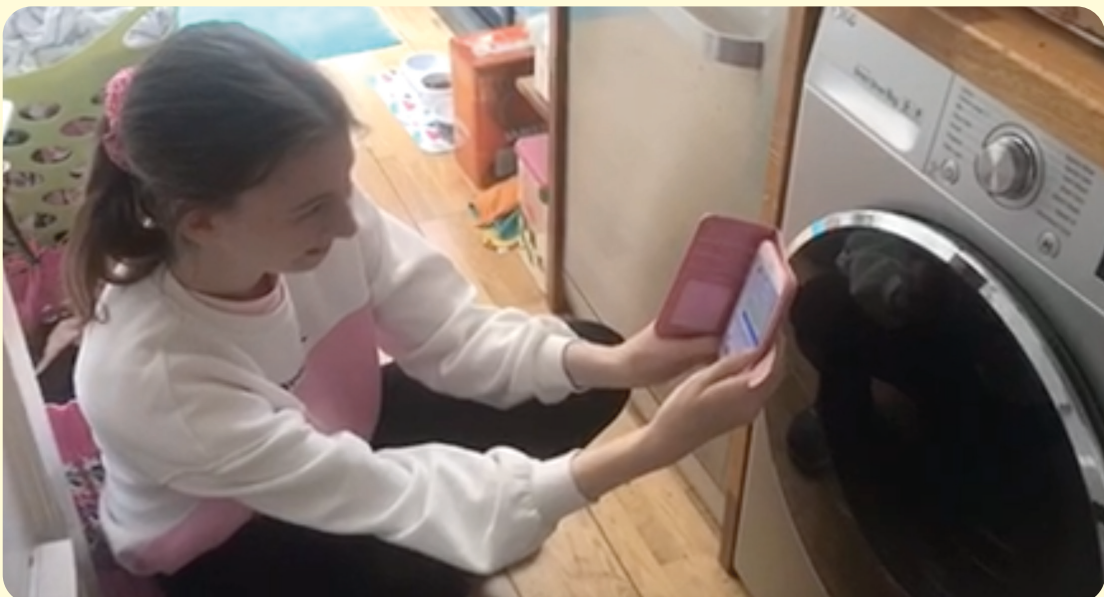
### Activity purpose:

Allows for the development of technical skills, creates an audio visual resource the group can share with others, is a fun quiz.

### Week one: creating the quiz with the group

- 1) Tell participants: "Your challenge is to find an interesting sound around your home! We would like you to record this sound, and to take a picture of the object that made this sound and send it to us."

*Facilitator notes: Discuss the devices that could be used to record this i.e. smartphone, tablet and check group all feel comfortable with using these devices to record and take photographs. Signpost easy read guide resources if needed. We have included examples of our iPad easy read guides at the end of this document.*



TNG member Kelly recording the sound of a washing machine, using her mobile phone.

- 2) *Facilitator notes: Make a compilation of the groups sounds and photos to share with the group. You can create a photo grid in a word document that can be screen shared with the group.*

*The photo grid of the sounds should be in a different order from the sounds you play so the group will be able to guess which object made which sound. Sounds can be compiled on a music platform such as Soundcloud or shared via the host's computer media player.*

### **Week two: playing the quiz!**

*Facilitator notes: Each participant will need a pen and paper, with numbers listed on the paper corresponding to how many sounds you have (e.g. 1-8). They will write their answers next to the number.*

- 1) Tell participants: **"We are going to guess which sound was made by which object! Have a look at the photos on the screen. I am going to play a number of sounds. After you hear each sound, write down the object on the screen you think made the noise."**
- 2) Play each sound, reminding participants to write their guesses next to each number. Check with participants if they need to hear any sounds again.

*Facilitator notes: Participants may need differing amounts of time to write their answers. To help facilitate this in an online setting where your view of their progress is limited you can ask participants to raise a hand when they are ready for the next sound.*

- 3) Give the answers to the quiz, and reveal who made each sound. Each participant can talk a little about their sound, how and where they found it and what they found interesting about it.



Jar of nuts



Bubble wrap



Wok (water and a beater)



Jar of grain



Lamp (and beater)



Sticky tape



Bag of crisps



Glass bottle



# Curious Sounds Answer Sheet

1).....

2).....

3).....

4).....

5).....

6).....

7).....

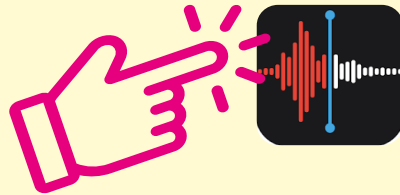
8).....

If you are running this activity in person, or online, you can print out these resources and use the Curious Sounds example audio clips available on This New Ground's Soundcloud page and also on the Lifesize Soundcloud page.

[Click here to visit the Soundcloud page.](#)

## Using Voice Memo App for iPad

1) To record a sound or voice message, tap on the **Voice Memo app**.



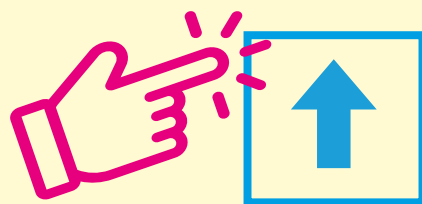
2) Tap on the red record button in the bottom of the screen.



3) Say your bit! When you are finished, tap done.



4) Your recording will show on the left side of the screen. Tap on the recording, then press the **share** button to share by email or Dropbox.



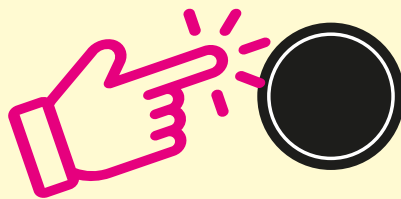


## Taking a Photo for iPad

1) To take a photo, tap on the camera app.



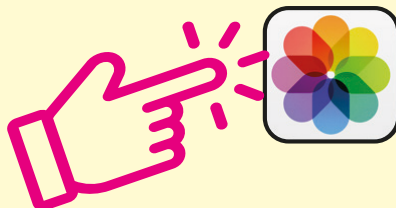
2) It will open up the camera. Tap the large circular button on the screen to take a photo.



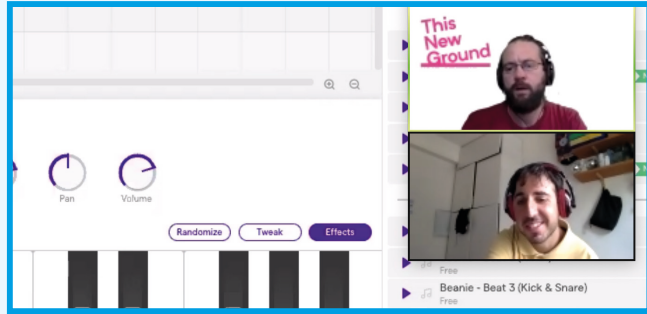
3) The photo will now be stored in your "camera roll".

## Looking at photos

1) To look at your photos, tap on the **photo app**.



# The Bridge Project May 2020 - October 2020



**"I'm excited to make music, something new, I didn't think we could make music online, I thought it was impossible."**

*Richie, TNG Member*

The Bridge Project was created in response to the social restrictions caused by the COVID -19 pandemic. Working with our community of learning disabled artists we have developed new, inclusive collaborative methods of digital music-making via online platforms.

Members of the TNG collective collaborated with community musician Sam Dook from Lifesize. Together, we explored and developed new digital tool-kits. We have shared new music created as part of this research and designed a selection of resources to serve as blueprints, supporting the digital and remote creative engagement of others.

Our research findings will determine the future design and delivery of TNG and Lifesize projects, acting as a catalyst for introducing new digital tools and models to our methodology.

This Project was supported by Arts Council England's COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund and The London Community Foundation.

**[www.thisnewground.com](http://www.thisnewground.com) [www.lifesize.org.uk](http://www.lifesize.org.uk)**