Name: _____ Date: _____

Why Your Voice Sounds Big in the Bathroom

Circle group

Many people love to sing in the shower. Their voices sound rich and full. The same song in a bedroom sounds thin and quiet. Why is the bathroom so different?

The answer is in the walls. Sound is vibrations that move through the air. When they hit something, they can bounce back. A bounce of sound is a reflection.

A bathroom has hard, smooth walls. They are made of tile, glass and shiny paint. Hard things bounce sound well. Your voice hits the walls and comes back to your ears. It mixes with the sound you are making. Your voice seems louder and longer.

A bedroom has soft things. It has a bed, a rug and curtains. Soft things soak up sound. Fewer bounces come back. Your voice sounds plain.

An empty room sounds echoey for this reason. People who record music hang thick blankets or foam on walls. They want to soak up extra bounces.

Questions

1. How does a voice sound in the shower?

_____

_____

2. What is a bounce of sound called?

_____

_____

3. What are bathroom walls made of?

_____

_____

4. What do soft things do to sound?

_____

_____

5. Why does an empty room sound echoey?

_____

_____

6. What do music recorders hang on walls?

_____

_____

Words to know

reflection: a bounce of sound or light off a surface
vibration: a fast shaking back and forth
tile: a hard, flat square used to cover walls or floors
soak: to take in and hold
echoey: full of echoes

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Why Your Voice Sounds Big in the Bathroom

Triangle group

Many people love to sing in the shower. Their voices sound rich and full. But the same song in a bedroom sounds thin and quiet. What makes the bathroom so different?

The answer is in the walls. Sound is made of vibrations that travel through the air. When those vibrations hit something, they can bounce back. A bounce of sound is called a reflection.

A bathroom has hard, smooth walls made of tile, glass and shiny paint. Hard surfaces bounce sound very well. Your voice hits the walls and comes right back to your ears. It mixes with the sound you are making now. This makes your voice seem louder and longer.

A bedroom is full of soft things such as a bed, a rug and curtains. Soft things soak up sound instead of bouncing it. Fewer reflections come back, so your voice sounds plain.

That is why a room with no furniture sounds echoey. And it is why people who record music hang thick blankets or foam on the walls. They want to soak up extra bounces.

Questions

1. How does a voice sound in the shower?

_____

_____

2. What is a bounce of sound called?

_____

_____

3. What are bathroom walls made of?

_____

_____

4. What do soft things do to sound?

_____

_____

5. Why does an empty room sound echoey?

_____

_____

6. What do music recorders hang on walls?

_____

_____

Words to know

reflection: a bounce of sound or light off a surface
vibration: a fast shaking back and forth
tile: a hard, flat square used to cover walls or floors
soak: to take in and hold
echoey: full of echoes

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Why Your Voice Sounds Big in the Bathroom

Square group

Plenty of people enjoy singing in the shower, where their voices sound rich and full. Yet the very same song sung in a bedroom often sounds thin and quiet. What could make the bathroom so different from other rooms?

The explanation lies in the walls. Sound consists of vibrations that travel through the air, and when those vibrations strike an object, they can bounce straight back. A bounce of sound is known as a reflection.

A bathroom is lined with hard, smooth surfaces such as tile, glass and shiny paint, and hard surfaces reflect sound extremely well. Your voice hits the walls and returns to your ears almost at once, blending with the sound you are making at that moment. As a result, your voice seems both louder and longer.

A bedroom, by contrast, is filled with soft furnishings such as a bed, a rug and curtains. Soft materials soak up sound rather than bouncing it back. Fewer reflections return to your ears, so your voice sounds plain.

This is also why a room with no furniture sounds so echoey. And it is why people who record music hang thick blankets or foam on the walls, since they want to soak up any extra bounces.

Questions

1. How does a voice sound in the shower?

_____

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2. What is a bounce of sound known as?

_____

_____

3. What is a bathroom lined with?

_____

_____

4. What do soft materials do to sound?

_____

_____

5. Why does a room with no furniture sound echoey?

_____

_____

6. What do people who record music hang on the walls?

_____

_____

Words to know

reflection: a bounce of sound or light off a surface
vibration: a fast shaking back and forth
tile: a hard, flat square used to cover walls or floors
soak: to take in and hold
echoey: full of echoes

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Why Your Voice Sounds Big in the Bathroom

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Why Your Voice Sounds Big in the Bathroom

Easier · 156 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.9

1. Rich and full.
2. A reflection.
3. Hard, smooth things like tile, glass and shiny paint.
4. They soak it up.
5. It has no soft things to soak up sound, so the sound keeps bouncing.
6. Thick blankets or foam.

Triangle: Why Your Voice Sounds Big in the Bathroom

This passage · 178 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3

1. Rich and full.
2. A reflection.
3. Hard, smooth things such as tile, glass and shiny paint.
4. They soak it up instead of bouncing it.
5. It has no soft furniture to soak up the sound, so the sound keeps bouncing.
6. Thick blankets or foam.

Square: Why Your Voice Sounds Big in the Bathroom

Harder · 205 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6

1. Rich and full.
2. A reflection.
3. Hard, smooth surfaces such as tile, glass and shiny paint.
4. They soak it up rather than bouncing it back.
5. It has no soft furnishings to soak up sound, so the sound keeps bouncing.
6. Thick blankets or foam.