Name: _____ Date: _____

The Hairs in Your Ear That Cannot Regrow

Circle group

Deep in your inner ear is a small part shaped like a snail shell. It is called the cochlea. Its walls are lined with thousands of tiny cells. Each cell has a bunch of super-thin hairs on top. They are not like the hairs on your head, but they look a bit like them.

When sound comes into the cochlea, the fluid there ripples. The tiny hairs bend back and forth. Each time they bend, they send a signal to the brain. That is how you hear.

These hair cells are delicate. A very loud sound can bend them too far or wear them out. If enough are harmed, people can have trouble hearing. The hair cells in a human ear do not grow back. So you must protect your hearing for life.

Here are ways to protect it. Keep the volume low on headphones. Take quiet breaks. Wear ear protection near very loud things, like fireworks or a lawn mower. If you must shout to be heard by someone an arm away, the noise is too loud.

Your ears will work hard for you for years. A little care today helps them keep going.

Questions

1. What is the snail-shaped part called?

_____

_____

2. What bends back and forth when the fluid ripples?

_____

_____

3. What do the hairs do each time they bend?

_____

_____

4. What can happen if a loud sound harms the hair cells?

_____

_____

5. Can you name one way to protect your hearing?

_____

_____

6. Why must you protect your hearing for life?

_____

_____

Words to know

cochlea: the snail-shaped part of the inner ear
ripples: makes small waves that spread out
delicate: easy to harm or break
protect: to keep safe from harm

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: _____

The Hairs in Your Ear That Cannot Regrow

Triangle group

Deep in your inner ear is a small part shaped like a snail shell. It is called the cochlea. Its walls are lined with thousands of tiny cells, and each cell has a bunch of super-thin hairs on top. They are not hairs like the ones on your head, but they look something like them.

When sound travels into the cochlea, the fluid there ripples. The tiny hairs bend back and forth. Each time they bend, they send a signal to the brain, and that is how you hear.

These hair cells are delicate. A very loud sound can bend them too far or wear them out. If enough hair cells are harmed, people may have trouble hearing, and the hair cells in a human ear do not grow back. That means hearing needs to be protected for the whole of your life.

Here are some ways to protect your hearing. Keep the volume low on headphones. Take quiet breaks. Wear ear protection near very loud things, like fireworks or a lawn mower. If you have to shout to be heard by someone standing an arm's length away, the noise is too loud.

Your ears will work hard for you for many years. A little care today helps them keep going.

Questions

1. What is the snail-shaped part in the inner ear called?

_____

_____

2. What bends back and forth when sound ripples through the fluid?

_____

_____

3. What do the hairs do each time they bend?

_____

_____

4. What can happen if a very loud sound harms the hair cells?

_____

_____

5. Can you name one way to protect your hearing?

_____

_____

6. Why does the writer say hearing needs protection for your whole life?

_____

_____

Words to know

cochlea: the snail-shaped part of the inner ear
ripples: makes small waves that spread out
delicate: easy to harm or break
protect: to keep safe from harm

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: _____

The Hairs in Your Ear That Cannot Regrow

Square group

Deep within your inner ear lies a small structure shaped like a snail shell, called the cochlea. Its walls are lined with thousands of tiny cells, and each cell is topped with a bunch of super-thin hairs. They are not hairs like the ones on your head, although they resemble them somewhat.

When sound travels into the cochlea, the fluid there begins to ripple. The tiny hairs bend back and forth, and each time they bend, they send a signal to the brain. That is how you hear.

These hair cells are remarkably delicate. A very loud sound can bend them too far or wear them out. If enough of them are harmed, people may have difficulty hearing, and the hair cells in a human ear do not grow back. That means your hearing needs protection for your entire life.

Here are some ways to protect it. Keep the volume low on headphones. Take quiet breaks. Wear ear protection near very loud things, such as fireworks or a lawn mower. If you have to shout to be heard by someone standing an arm's length away, the noise is too loud.

Your ears will work hard for you for many years, and a little care today helps them keep going.

Questions

1. What is the snail-shaped structure in the inner ear called?

_____

_____

2. What bends back and forth when sound ripples through the fluid?

_____

_____

3. What do the hairs do each time they bend?

_____

_____

4. What may happen if a very loud sound harms enough hair cells?

_____

_____

5. Can you name one way to protect your hearing?

_____

_____

6. Why does your hearing need protection for your entire life?

_____

_____

Words to know

cochlea: the snail-shaped part of the inner ear
delicate: easy to harm or break
protect: to keep safe from harm

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: The Hairs in Your Ear That Cannot Regrow

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

Circle: The Hairs in Your Ear That Cannot Regrow

Easier · 196 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2

1. The cochlea.
2. The tiny hairs on the cells.
3. They send a signal to the brain.
4. People can have trouble hearing, and the cells do not grow back.
5. Keep headphone volume low, take quiet breaks, or wear ear protection near loud things.
6. The hair cells do not grow back, so the harm lasts.

Triangle: The Hairs in Your Ear That Cannot Regrow

This passage · 212 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.3

1. The cochlea.
2. The tiny hairs on the cells.
3. They send a signal to the brain.
4. People may have trouble hearing, and the cells do not grow back.
5. Keep headphone volume low, take quiet breaks, or wear ear protection near loud things.
6. Hair cells do not grow back, so any damage lasts.

Square: The Hairs in Your Ear That Cannot Regrow

Harder · 210 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.4

1. The cochlea.
2. The tiny hairs on top of the cells.
3. They send a signal to the brain.
4. People may have difficulty hearing, and the cells do not grow back.
5. Keep headphone volume low, take quiet breaks, or wear ear protection near loud things.
6. Hair cells do not grow back, so any harm is lasting.