

Exploring Animal Ears – Open Up a World of Sounds!

Have you ever noticed how most animals have ears that are shaped quite different from your own? Their ears can come in all kinds of different shapes, depending on what kind of habitat an animal lives in, or what kinds of things they need to listen out for. How many ear shapes can you think of?

Let's explore animal's ears and hearing, by creating some prosthetic (artificial or fake) ears for ourselves!



Here's what you need:

- ✚ **Ear materials** – You could use so many things: construction paper, cardboard, plastic pieces, Styrofoam, plastic containers (clean yogurt cups, for example), trays, craft sticks, be creative!
- ✚ **Scissors**
- ✚ **Tape**
- ✚ **Glue**
- ✚ **Stapler and staples**



Let's Get Started!

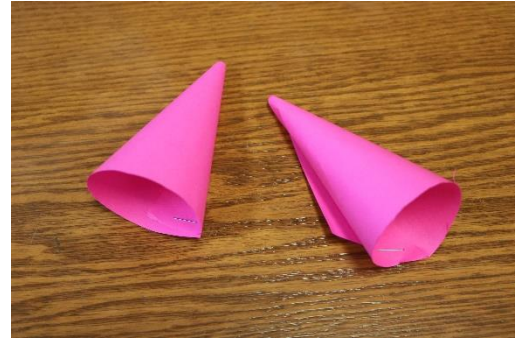
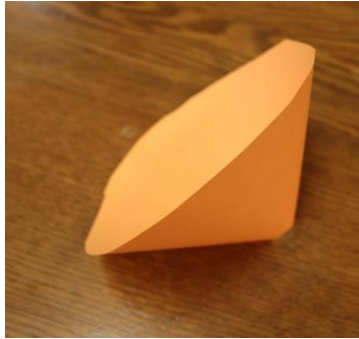
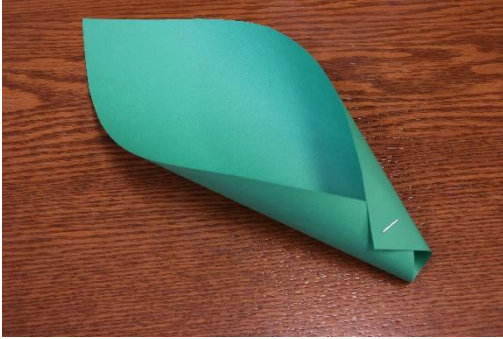
#1: Research animal ears

Before you begin, do a little research into various animals' ears. Try to find examples from different groups of animals. Is there a difference between the ears of predators, versus the ears of prey? What about birds versus mammals? Have you noticed how a horse can move each ear independently? How does an elephant's floppy ears affect their hearing? Why don't reptiles have ears on the outside? Try to come up with some of your own questions as well!



#2: Create some ears

Now that you know a little more about the diversity of ears, use the materials you collected and try to make one of the ears you researched. Just make sure you aren't covering the opening of your own ear; you want to hear sounds differently, not block them!



#3: Compare and contrast

Using your newly created ears, compare and contrast them with your own! Listen to a sound, then listen to the same sound with one of your new ears. How do they compare? Does it make a difference if you listen to different types of sounds, like far vs close sounds, or high vs low sounds? Make some notes to help you keep track of each ear.



#4: Experiment with ears

Now that you've had some time to explore animals' ears, do you think you could design a totally new kind of ear? One that doesn't yet exist?

Let us know how your crafting went! Share pictures of your animal ears online and tag us @thefrdc to help us find you! Stay safe, and happy crafting!

