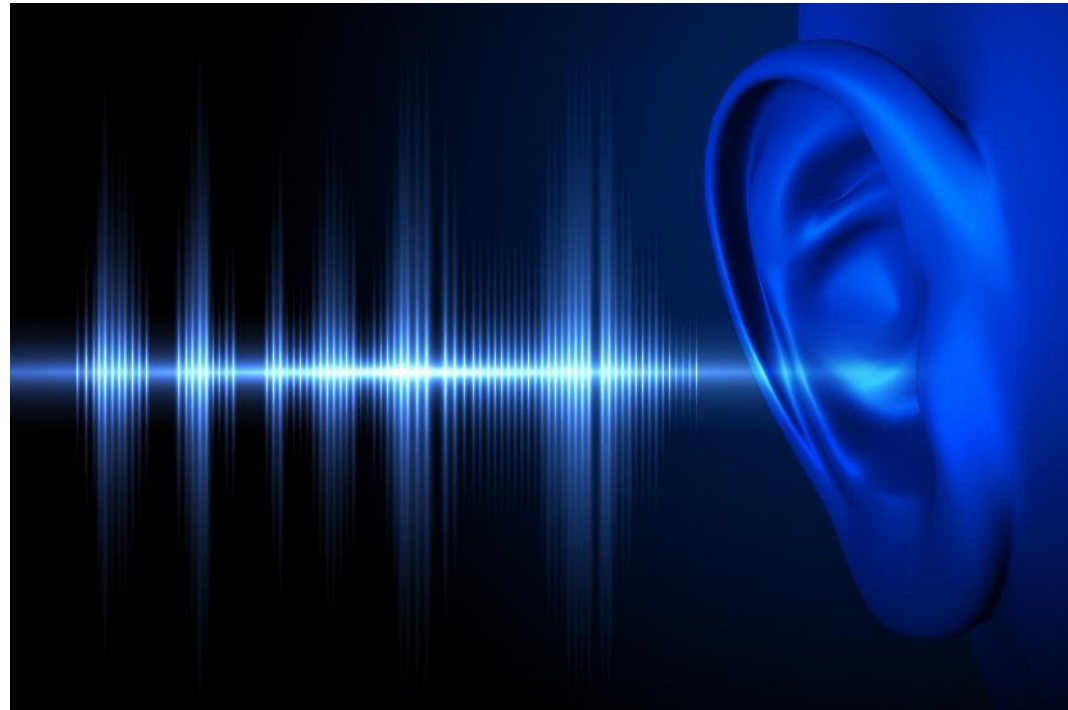


What happens when sounds reach our ears?

If we can hear something, then it means that sound waves have reached our ears. Our ears contain many parts, and they all work together to turn sound waves into something our brains recognise as a sound.

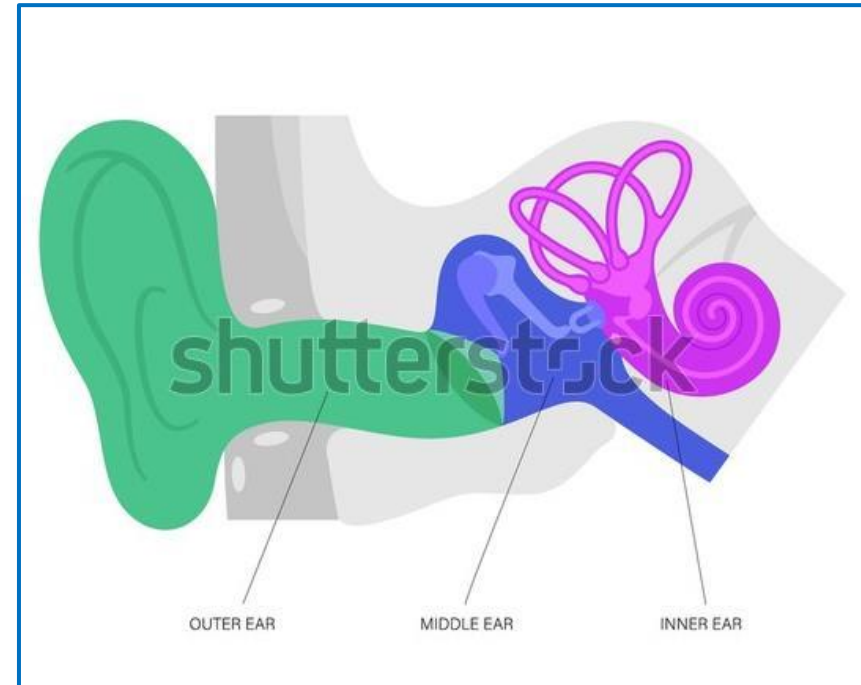


What happens when sounds reach our ears?

The ear is made up of three different parts: the **outer ear**, the **middle ear**, and the **inner ear**.

The outer ear is on the outside of the body and includes the passage just inside the ear—the **ear canal**. Once sound waves reach the outer ear, the vibrations move along the ear canal until they reach the **eardrum**.

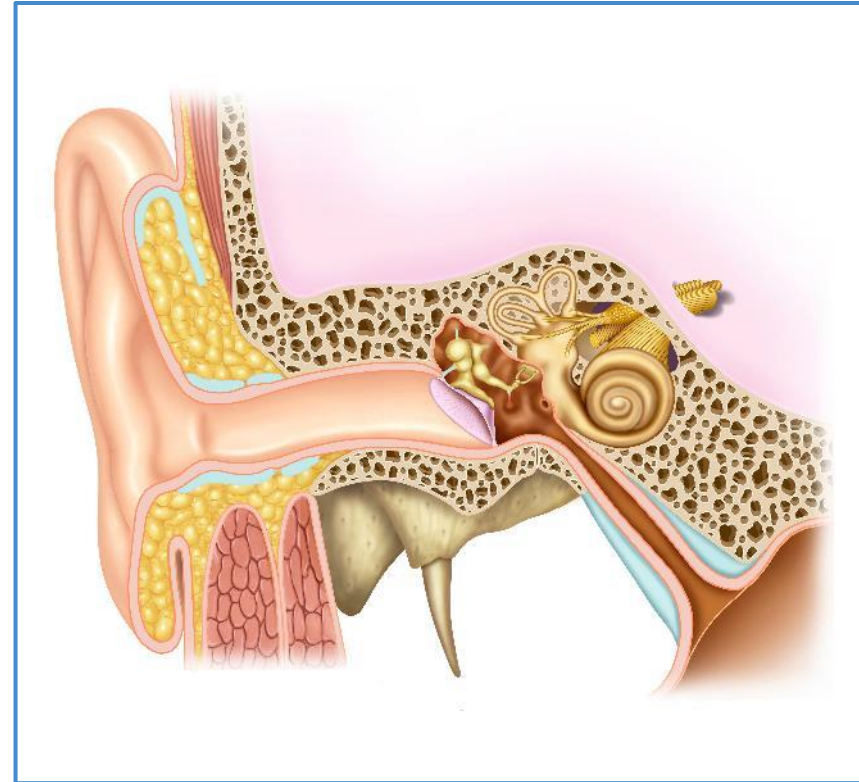
Vibrations cause the eardrum to move, and the sound waves travel into the middle ear.



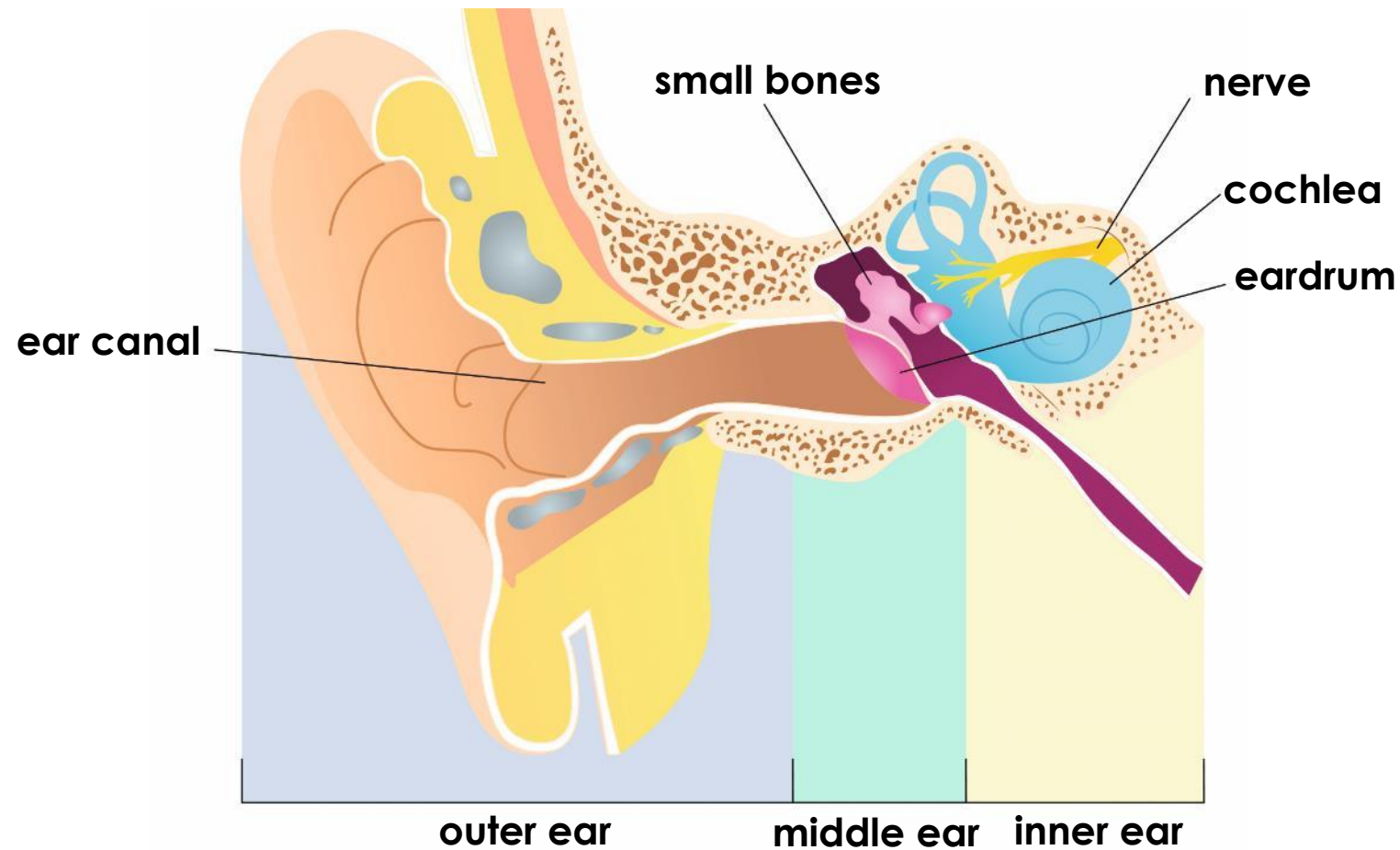
What happens when sounds reach our ears?

The middle ear consists of the eardrum and three tiny bones. The vibrations move through the three bones and then into the inner ear.

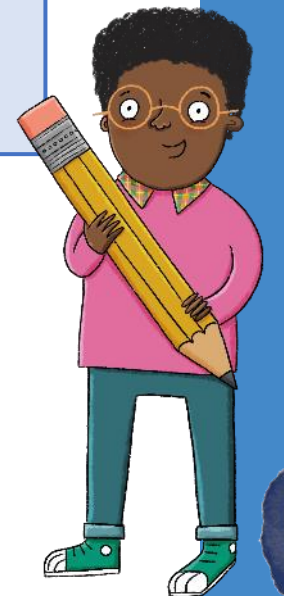
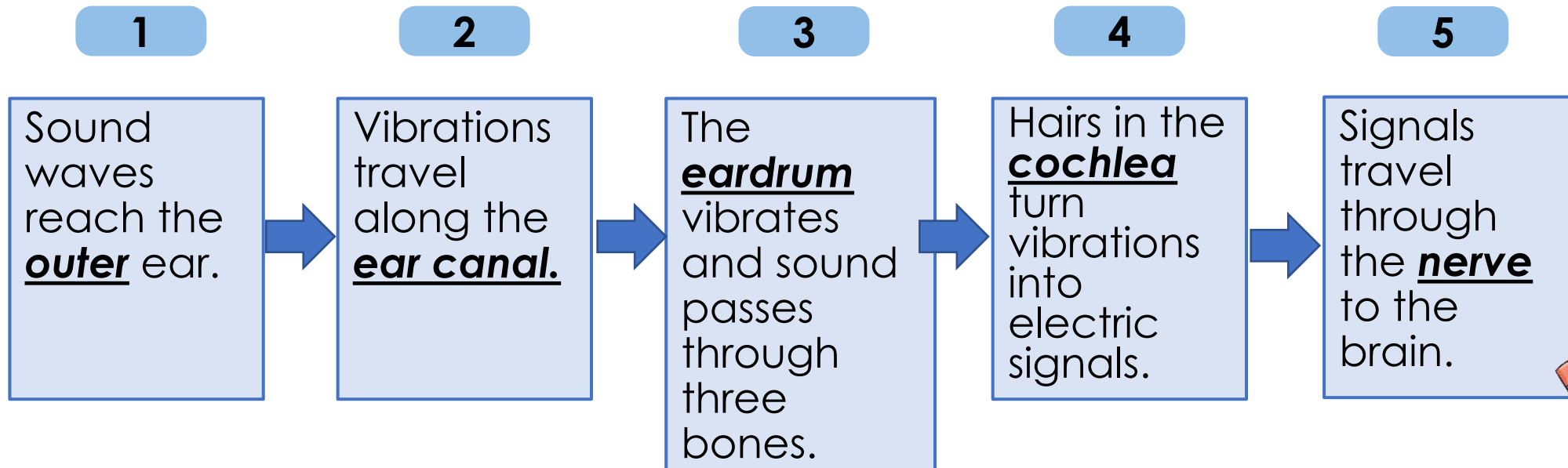
Once inside the inner ear, the vibrations reach the **cochlea**. This part of the ear is shaped like a snail's shell and has thousands of tiny hairs. These hairs turn the sound vibrations into electric signals which then travel along the **nerve** to the brain. The brain then tells us what we can hear.



Add the labels to the correct part of the ear



Describe what happens when sound reaches our ears



Let's investigate!

Our ears are important, and we need to look after them. Loud sounds can damage (harm) our hearing.

People wear ear defenders to protect their ears. These defenders can muffle or block out sound.

In which jobs should ear defenders be worn?

