

Unit 4 Vocab

Vocab for section 1 (what is sound)

- Compression: Area where air molecules are close together
- Rarefaction: Area where air molecules are far apart
- Crest: The top of a sound wave (high sound pressure)
- Trough: The bottom of a sound wave (low sound pressure)
- Decibel (db): The unit of measure for sound pressure. How loud something is.
- Amplitude: The distance between a peak and trough.
- Wavelength: The distance between two peaks in a wave
- Frequency: How many cycles per second.
- Hertz (hz): The unit of measure for frequency. How high a pitch is

Vocab for section 2 (sound in an open field)

- Reflection: Sound waves bouncing off of one or more surfaces like light off of a mirror.
- Diffusion: Sound bouncing off and scattering in many directions.
- Flutter Echo: The slap-back sound coming from two parallel, reflective surfaces.
- Reverberance: The reflective characteristic of a room.
- Resonance: The frequency that a system naturally vibrates.
- Absorption: When sound does not reflect off of a surface.
- Absorptive coefficient: The unit of measure for sound absorption. 1 is perfect absorption.

Vocab for section 3 (synthesis)

- Fundamental frequency: The original, lowest, and loudest frequency in a sound.
- Overtone: The higher frequencies that are excited by the fundamental.
- Timbre: The characteristic of a sound that is determined by the volume of each overtone
- Attack: The beginning of a sound.
- Decay: The end of a sound.
- Oscillator: Generates a consistent, repeated signal in the form of a frequency or pitch.
- Filter: Tools for changing the signal
- Waveform: The shape of a sound wave