



DUUUUUUUUN DUUUUUUN..... DAAAAA
DUUUUUUNNNN... BOM BOM BOM BOM
BOM BOM BOM...
IMAGINE THE SOUNDS OF THE ICE AGE

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Imagine and select sounds
- Experiment with use of sound
- Record and edit a soundscape

1-2 HOURS

INDEPENDENT LEARNING

DIFFICULTY: ★★★★★

YOUR MISSION

AQUILA wants you to imagine what the Last Ice Age sounded like, and then record and edit a soundscape of your own to conjure the mood and atmosphere of the chilly wonderland! Of course, nobody knows exactly what it sounded like, but it's fun to guess! Did it sound like a delicate 'ting' like the tapping on an icicle, a 'crunch' of snow underfoot or maybe like lots of teeth chattering?!

Your brief is to record and edit a soundscape depicting the Last Ice Age.

GET STARTED

PHASE 1:

Find some images of the ice age. Look carefully at the environment and think about what sounds might be made by the setting – for example: a rustle of grass blowing in the breeze, or a splatter of rain on a muddy floor. Make a list of all of the sounds you can imagine in that space.

PHASE 2:

Let's go a'huntin'! Look throughout your house for interesting sounds – what does a spoon tapped against a radiator sound like? Or a kitchen cupboard door shutting? What about the sound of shoes on gravel? Experiment with lots of different sounds and add the best ones to your list – think creatively about what textures to combine to make interesting sounds.

PHASE 3:

Testing, testing... 1, 2, 3. It's vital that your smartphone is charged and ready to roll! Start recording your individual sounds on your smartphone. Play back each one to check that you have captured the sound clearly and try lots of different sounds so that you have a selection to choose from when it comes to editing.

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PHASE 4:

If you are working on a computer or laptop, try using **Audacity** (a free editing software, perfect for editing sound), or if editing on a tablet or smartphone, try **WavePad** music editor (a free app). You should import all of your audio files into the sound editor and then begin to move them around into a logical order. You could even layer up the sound files so that you have the same sound repeated or staggered.

PHASE 5:

Play that funky music! Hit the play button and review your soundscape. For maximum impact, close your eyes and imagine the glorious sights of the ice age stretched out before you. Reflect on how appropriate your choices were and whether you have put them in the right place. Is the balance of sounds right? Are some too loud or too quiet? At this stage, you might want to re-edit and play around with your soundscape.

*** Fancy making some more sound effects? Check out page 10 of our December issue, *Night at the Movies!***

We want to hear your splendid sounds. Don't forget to send copies of your finished soundscapes to the address on the readers' page of the AQUILA website, and we'll share as many as we can.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- * How can you create sounds to set your soundscape apart from others?
- * When editing, it's important to trim your clips to ensure you don't have any unwanted sounds included. This helps to keep your soundscape tidy.
- * How can you combine your sounds to build up a picture? Can some sounds play at the same time, can others start mid-way through another, or will you have five or six sounds playing together and fading out at different times? A soundscape is all about layering.
- * Does your soundscape clearly conjure the feeling of a cold, dangerous landscape, or does it make you think of an exciting world filled with spectacular scenery?
- * Ask somebody else to listen to your soundscape and see if they can guess what place you are trying to create.
- * Can you find a suitable piece of instrumental music to enhance your soundscape? Often, a piece of music with a high pitch can create tension, and a low pitched drone might suggest danger. Music can really enhance a soundscape and help to tell a story through sound.