

Name: Date:



The Dancing Rice Experiment

Did you know that sound is a type of energy made by vibrations? This simple sound experiment allows you to observe sound waves. Give it a try!

Materials:

- Big bowl
- Plastic wrap
- Uncooked rice (or dried beans)
- Metal pan
- Metal spoon
- Scissors

Wow-To:

Step 1: Tear off a portion of plastic wrap large enough to cover your bowl. Place the plastic wrap over the bowl's opening making sure it is sealed up as tightly as possible.

Step 2: Gently pour about a teaspoon of rice (or dried beans) on top of the plastic wrap covering the bowl's surface.

Step 3: Holding your pan as close to the bowl as possible, bang on it with the spoon—the harder the better!

Step 4: Observe and reflect:

How are the results affected if you bang the pan more softly? More heavily?

Swap the rice for the beans and try it again. Which items have the most bounce?

What is happening is that as the pan vibrates, it creates sound waves. The sound waves are then transmitted through the air causing the plastic wrap to vibrate too making the rice dance.