The Parts of the Ear

**Parts of the Outer Ear**

**Pinna:** The outside part of the ear on the side of your head. It acts as a funnel to catch sound waves and pass them down the ear canal.

**Ear Canal:** The tunnel through which sound waves travel to reach the middle parts of the ear.

**Parts of the Middle Ear**

**Eardrum:** A membrane right at the beginning of the middle ear, that is stretched across the ear canal and vibrates when sound hits it.

**Hammer:** The first of a set of three tiny bones that move when the eardrum vibrates.

**Anvil:** A tiny bone, which—when touched by the hammer—bumps into the last tiny bone (the stirrup).

**Stirrup:** When this third tiny bone moves, it presses against the cochlea of the inner ear.

**Parts of the Inner Ear**

**Cochlea:** A bony, fluid-filled spiral that receives sound waves when the stirrup moves against it. It translates the waves into something the brain can understand.

**Auditory Nerve:** This nerve carries the signals of sound waves from the cochlea to the brain.

**Bonus:** Can you find the semicircular canals? These are three ducts in the inner ear that control our ears’ balance of sound.

**Directions:** Read through the word list at right, then label the parts of the ear.