

# FEELING THE VIBRATIONS

Est. Time: 60-120 minutes

Subjects: CTE, ELA, General Music, SEL, STEAM

Age Range: Elementary & Middle School

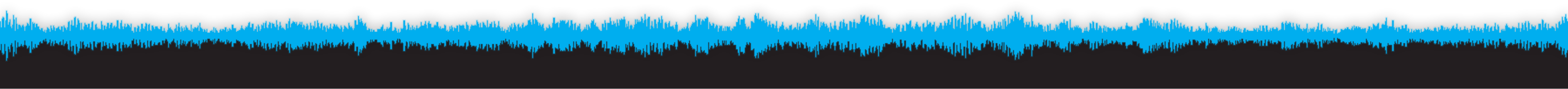
See the full lesson [here!](#)

★ *TEACHROCK* ★



How did the Grateful Dead make their concerts more accessible to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) community?

In this lesson you will:

- Understand the innovations used by the Grateful Dead to support deaf and hard of hearing fans
  - Find out about the history and use of American Sign Language
  - Discover how sound moves through different materials
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# WITH MUSIC, THEATER...

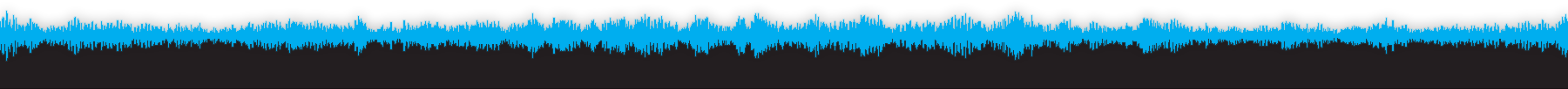


## QUESTIONS ABOUT BEING DEAF

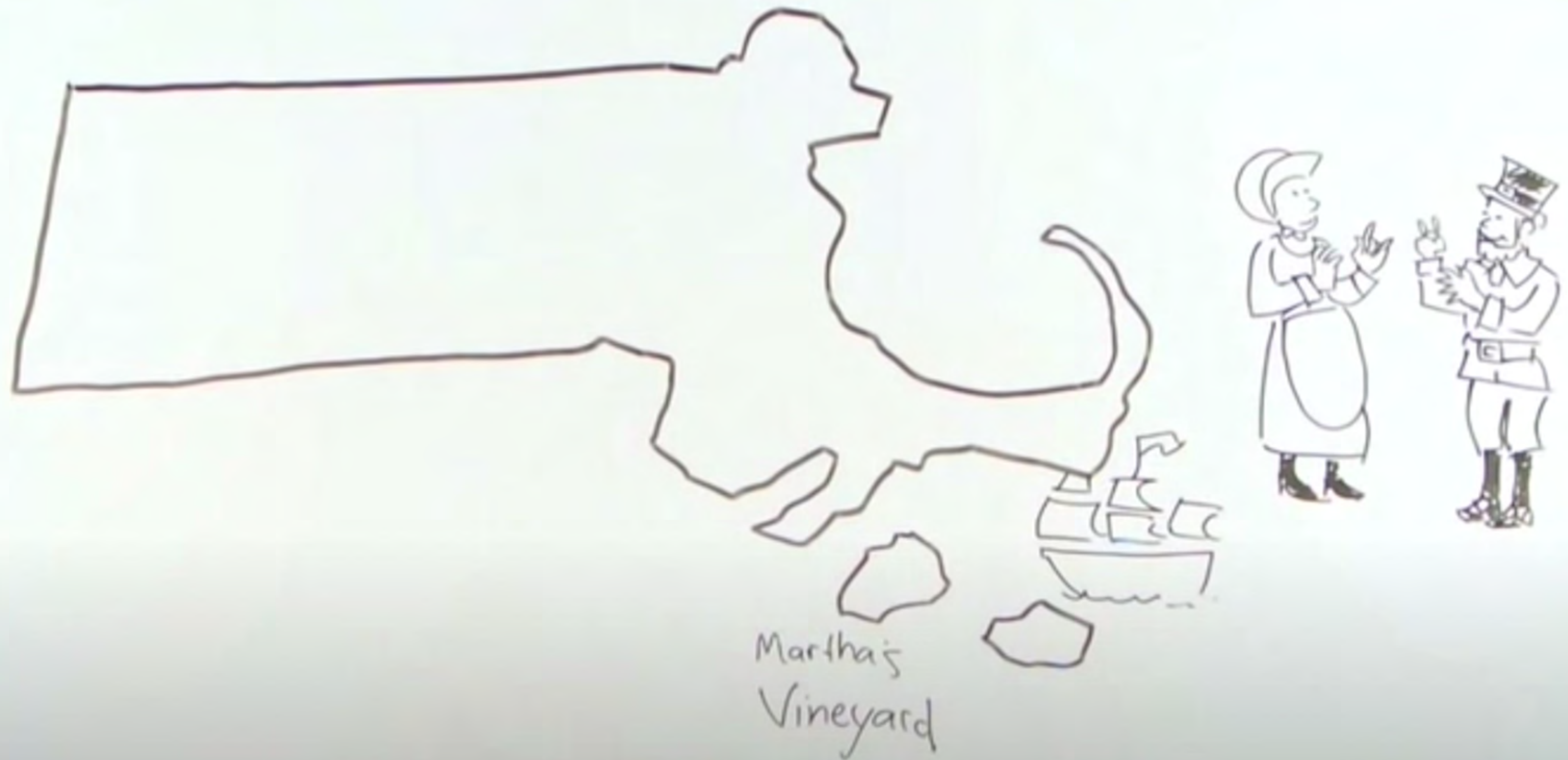
Have you ever wondered what it is like to be deaf or hard of hearing? Watch [this video](#) to learn more.



Think about or ask a friend:

- What were some of the misconceptions people have about deaf people? Which seemed especially interesting to you? Why?
  - Would you have any questions for a deaf or hard of hearing person? What would they be?
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## AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

Watch [this video](#) to learn about the history of American Sign Language (ASL).



Think about or ask a friend:

- How does ASL benefit the deaf and hard of hearing?
  - Why do you think some people tried to make deaf people speak in the 1880's?
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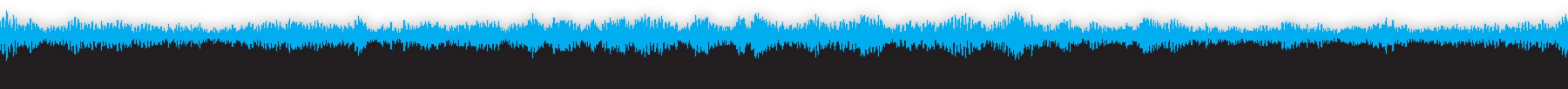


## FIREWORK

Watch [this video](#) of a sign language interpretation of Katy Perry's "Firework."



Consider or talk with a friend:

- How did this interpreter share the feeling of this song?
  - In what ways did he express the lyrics musically through his body?
  - Do you think that every interpreter would “sing” this song in the same way?
  - Have you ever seen a sign interpreter during a live event? Where?
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The Grateful Dead was one of the most successful touring bands in the history of Rock and Roll. They are known for their festival-style concerts and for their improvisational style of music.







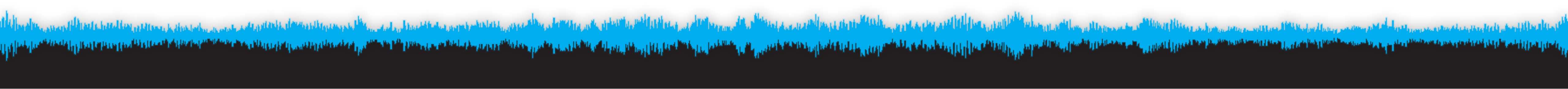
## THE FAN MANDALA

Watch [this video](#) to see how each group of fans was special to the Grateful Dead, including those that were deaf or hard of hearing.





The Grateful Dead was one of the first bands to provide support for deaf and hard of hearing fans:

- Beginning in 1980 there was a American Sign Language interpreter at each concert.
  - Deaf and hard of hearing people had their own section with interpreters nearby.
  - Deaf and Hard of Hearing Fans carried large balloons to help them to feel the vibrations of the music.
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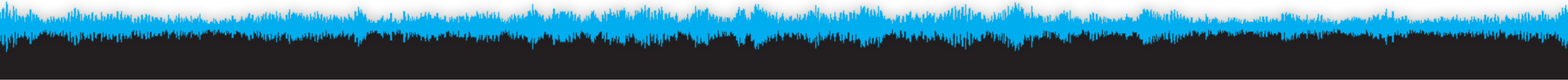
## TACTILE LISTENING EXPERIMENTS

During Grateful Dead concerts, deaf and hard of hearing people would hold balloons to feel the music. Use [this handout](#) and watch [the video](#) to see if you can feel music with a variety of household objects.





After the experiment, consider or discuss with a friend:

- What object allowed you to feel the music the best?
  - Was there a genre of music that was more easily felt than others?
  - What is it about sound that makes it possible to feel it through different materials?
  - Why might some materials work better than others at transmitting sound
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# SUMMARY

- The Grateful Dead supported deaf and hard of hearing fans with sign language, special seating, and balloons for feeling the vibrations of the music
- American Sign Language was developed in 1817 and is used by many people who are deaf or hard of hearing
- Sound is created by vibrations in the air. Different materials can absorb or reflect these vibrations. A balloon, for instance, is able to easily reflect sound's vibrations, whereas other materials absorb the vibrations, making them harder to feel





# BE CREATIVE

- Boost your understanding of American Sign Language! You can read more about sign language and see each letter of the ASL Alphabet [here](#). Try translating phrases like “I love you” or “Live long and prosper” and create a piece of art using those ASL signs.
- Learn how to sign a simple nursery rhyme or favorite song. Create a video of yourself signing the song.



# BE CURIOUS

Interested in learning more about people who work with sound in music?

- Find out about The Grateful Dead's famous Wall of Sound [here](#).
- Learn about how Sam Phillips influenced the sound of Rock and Roll [here](#).
- Find out what Sound Engineers do by checking out [this link](#).
- How does sound engineering at a concert or live event work? [Look here](#).



# IN TODAY'S NEWS!

- The role of the ASL Interpreter has been magnified during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Daily news briefings include an ASL Interpreter standing by the side of Government Officials and helping to inform the public about important news.
- Each ASL Interpreter had their own style. Watch [this video](#) to see a recent news conference in Los Angeles.



# CAREER CONNECTIONS

Interested in careers associated with the lesson? You might be interested in:

- Performing Arts
- Public Services
- Multimedia Audio Production
- Stage Technology



# CONNECT

Share with us! Either you or an adult in your life can share your filled in handout, art piece, or signing video with TeachRock on **Instagram** or **Facebook**, email to **info@teachrock.org**, or Tweet it to **@TeachRock**







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Visit us at [teachrock.org](https://teachrock.org) for hundreds of other free arts-rich resources for every age range and classroom.

Please check back to [teachrock.org/distancelearning](https://teachrock.org/distancelearning) frequently as we will update the material weekly!