

The Human Ear

Parts of the Ear
and Their Functions

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Our Ears

The human ear is incredible! Ears can sense sound in the form of vibrations and send and receive signals from the brain.



Look Closely

Look closely at a partner's ear.
You will be able to see the outer
structure of the ear.

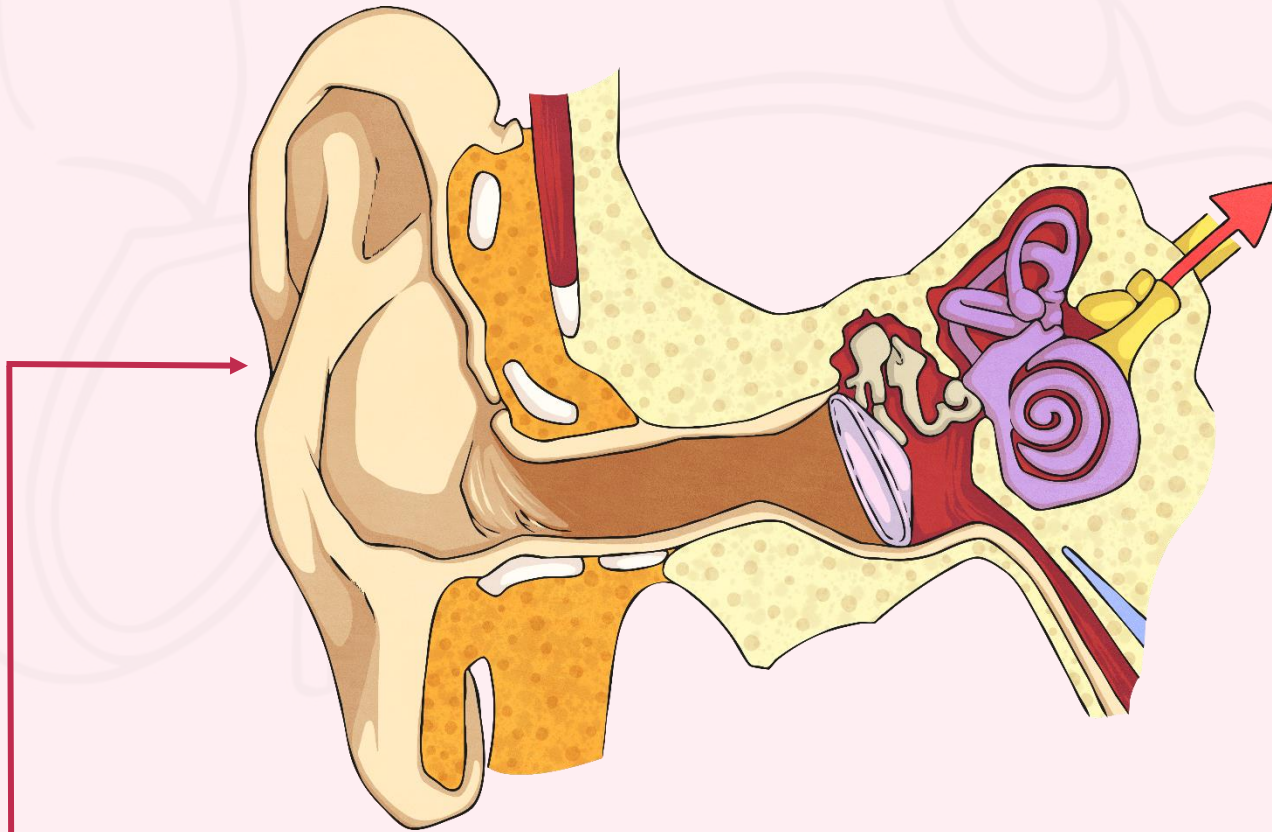
Take a minute to describe to your
partner what you can see.

[Click here to start the timer!](#)

We are going to find out about the
parts of the ear we can see and the
ones we cannot. We will also learn
what each part's function.

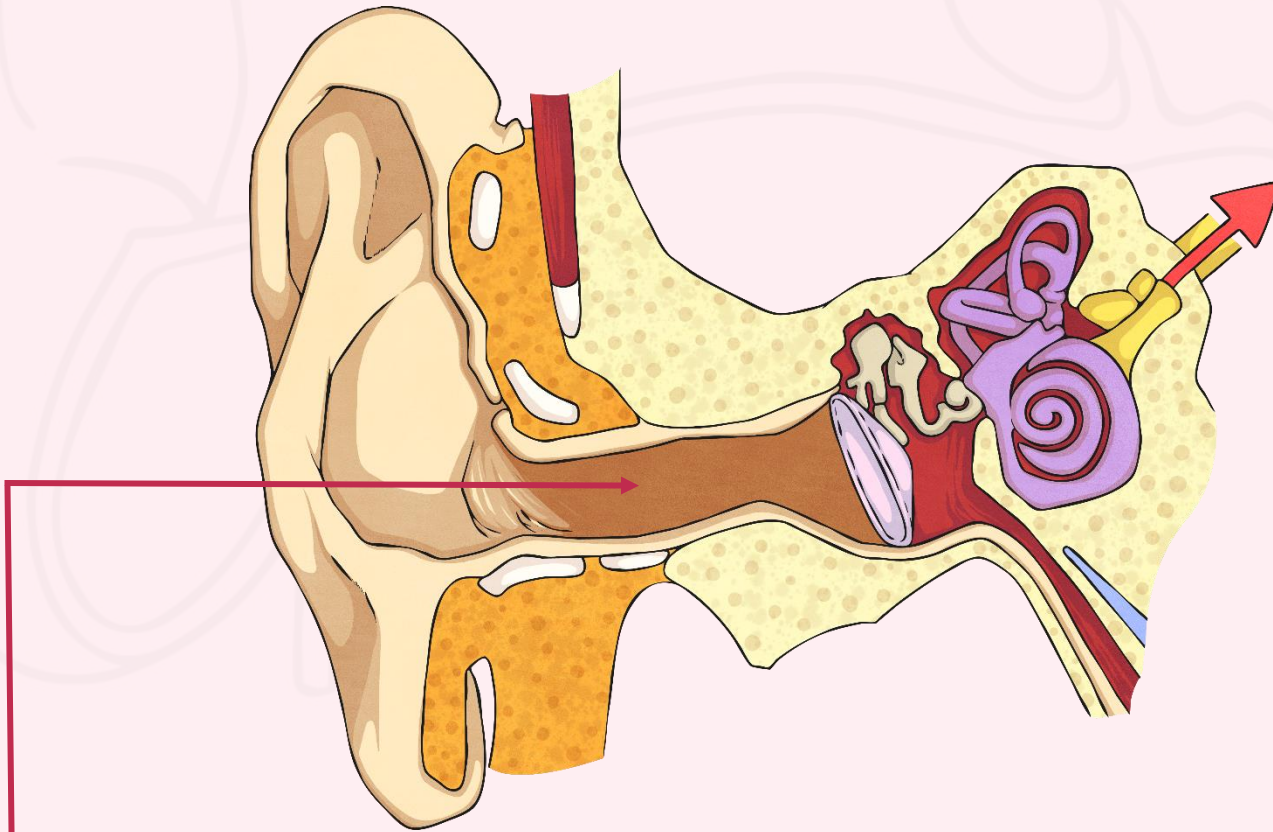


Pinna



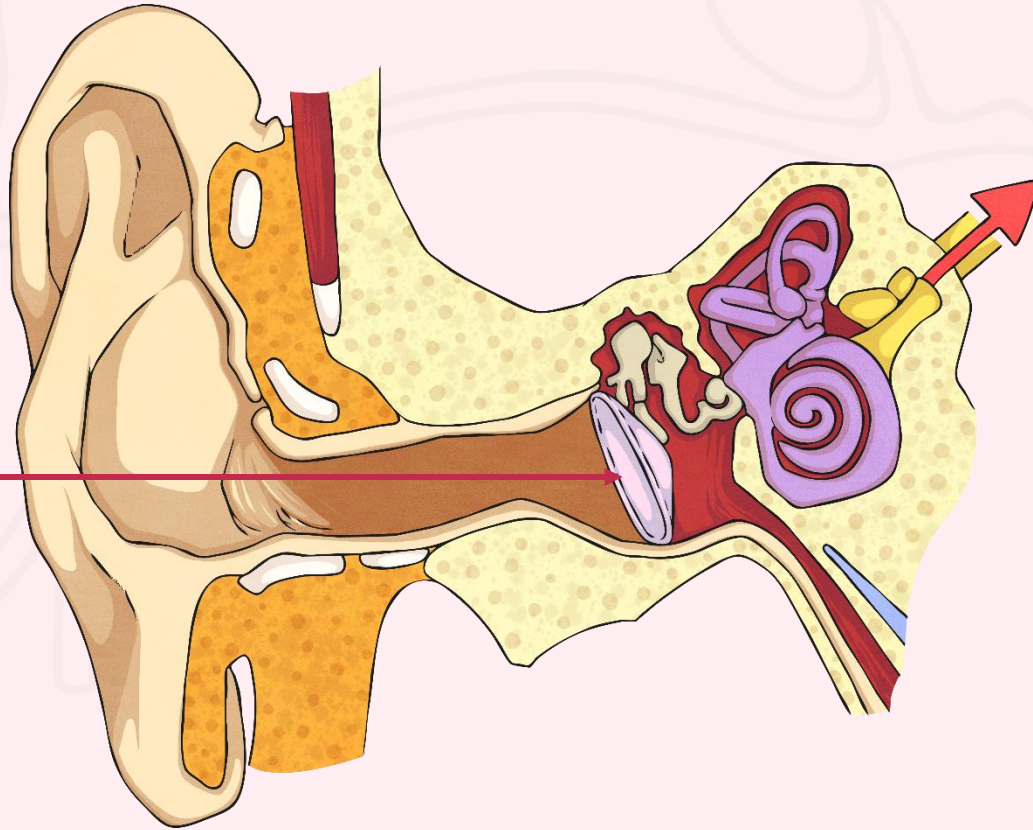
The **pinna** is made of cartilage covered by skin.
It funnels sound into the ear canal.

Ear Canal



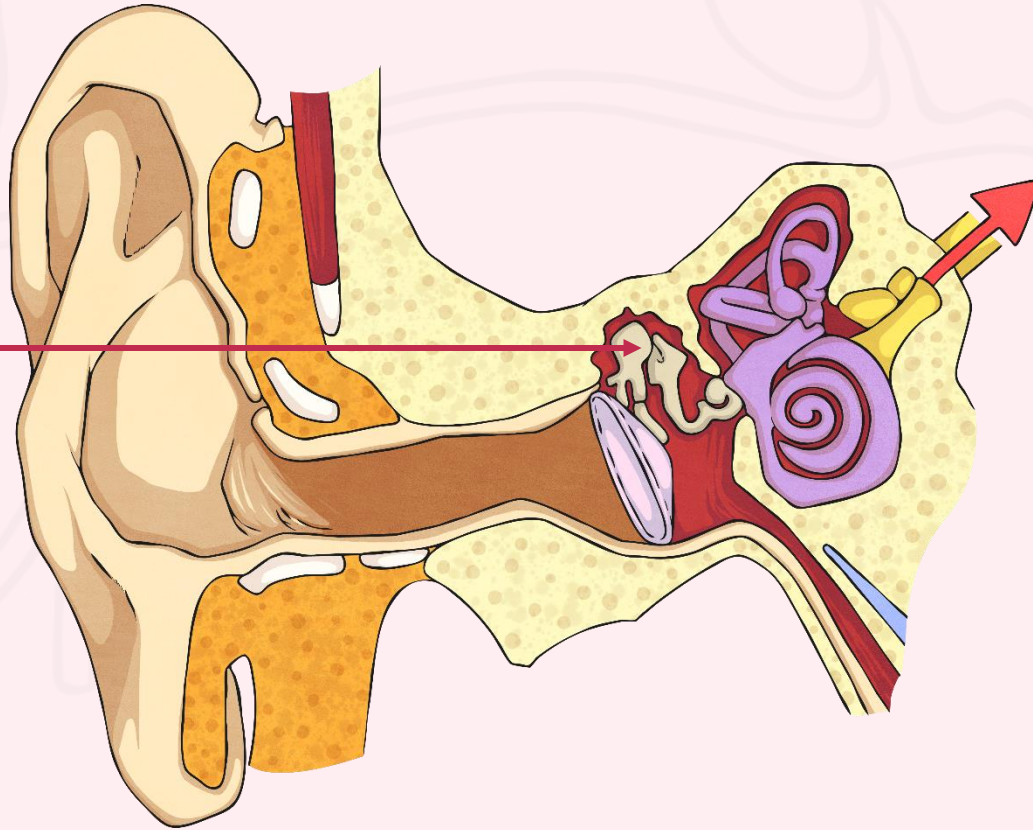
The **ear canal** is a short tube that transmits sound from the pinna to the eardrum.

Eardrum



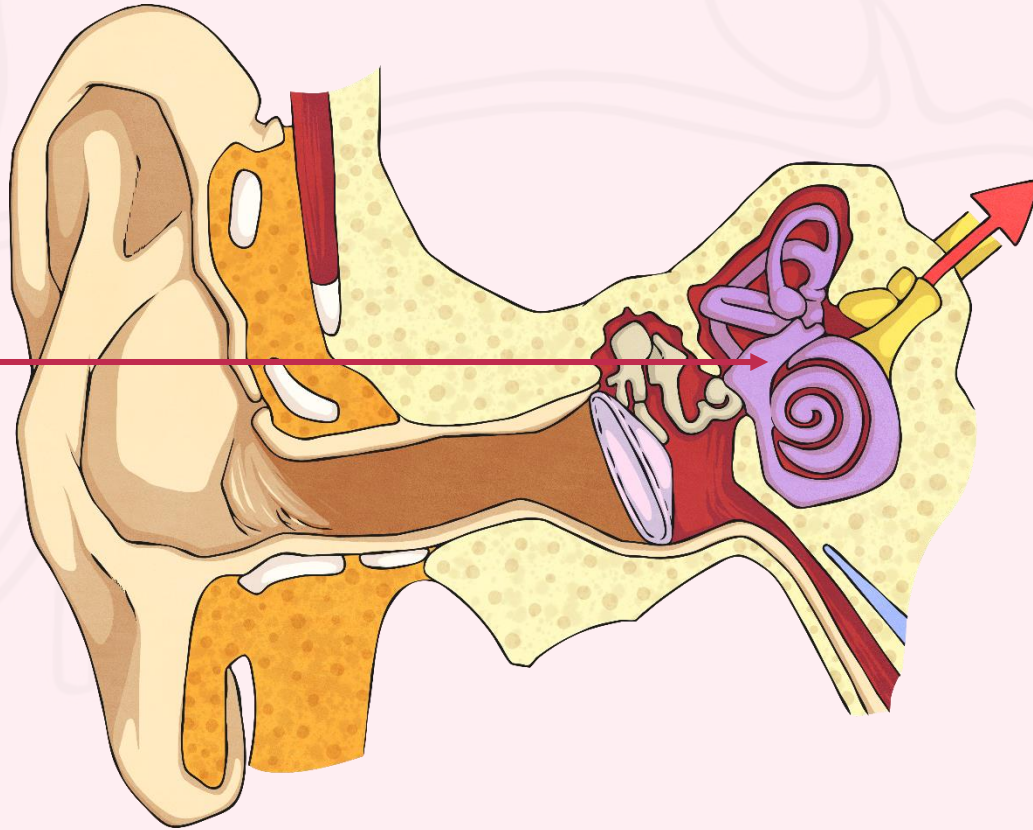
The **eardrum** is a thin, tough layer of tissue at the end of the auditory canal. Sound waves make the eardrum vibrate.

Ear Bones



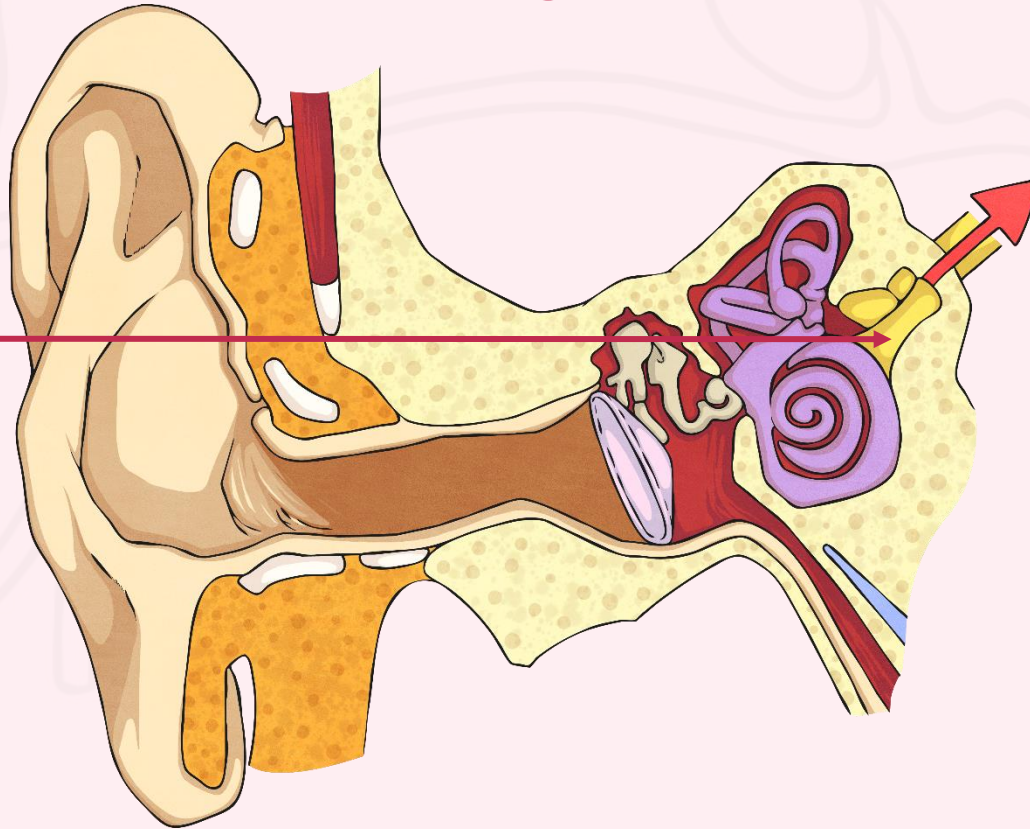
Ear bones, or ossicles, are three tiny bones that amplify and transmit the vibrations from the eardrum to the cochlea.

Cochlea



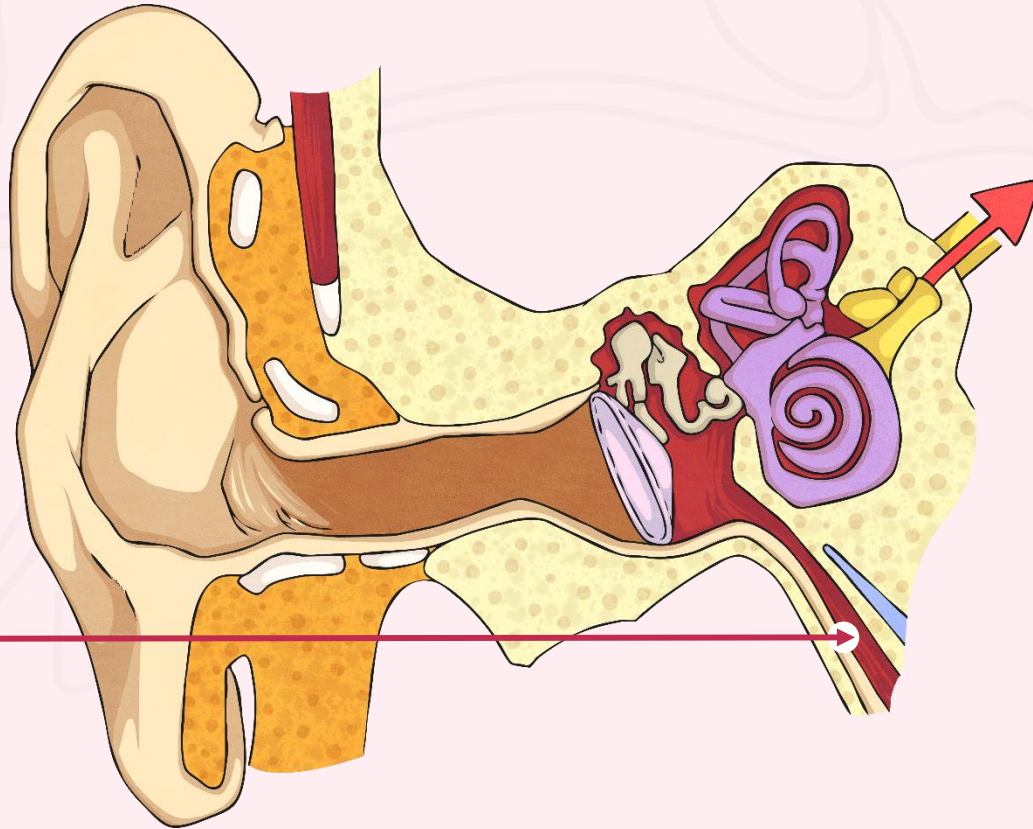
The **cochlea** is an organ filled with fluid. Receptor cells change vibrations in the fluid into electrical impulses.

Auditory Nerve



The **auditory nerve** contains sensory neurons that send information to the brain for processing.

Eustachian Tube



The **Eustachian tube** connects the middle ear to the nasal cavity.
It regulates the pressure within the ear.



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