

Parts of the Ear

Pinna (auricle) = the outer part of the ear made of cartilage covered by skin, funnels sound into the ear

Auditory Canal = transmits sound toward the tympanic membrane

Tympanic Membrane (eardrum) = thin flap of stretched skin that vibrates when sound hits it, the vibrations cause the ossicle bones to move

Ossicles = tiny bones in the ear that amplify sound into our inner ear

1. Malleus (hammer)

2. Incus (anvil)

3. Stapes (stirrup)

Tympanic Cavity = air filled cavity that connects the middle ear to the eustachian tube

Eustachian Tube (auditory tube) = helps equalize pressure in the ear and can also help drain mucus, opens when you swallow, empties into your throat

Cochlea = spiral shaped organ that transforms sound waves into electrical impulses your brain can understand

Semicircular Canals (or ducts) = filled with fluid and helps our brain determine head position and a sense of balance

Cochlear Nerve = sends "sound" electrical impulses to the brain

Vestibular Nerve = sends impulses to the brain about balance, head position, and movement