

Echolocation

8 Submarines and ships use sonar technology to navigate
18 the depths of the oceans. However, did you know that
26 many animals are born with a similar ability?

34 Echolocation is nature's own built-in sonar system and
43 is used by many species to gather information about
52 where objects are in a space. These creatures produce
60 sound waves which bounce off other objects before
69 hitting their ears. Using these echoes, they can then
78 work out where something is without having to use
80 their sight.

89 Bats use echolocation to great effect when trying to
99 locate insect prey in the dark and dolphins, whales and
109 many birds also have a similar skill. Some blind people
117 have also been known to develop echolocation abilities!



Questions



1. What type of waves are used in echolocation?



2. Find and copy one word which means to 'plan and direct the course of travel'.



3. Why do you think that some blind people have developed echolocation abilities?



4. Summarise echolocation in one sentence.

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Answers



1. What type of waves are used in echolocation

Sound waves are used in echolocation.



2. Find and copy one word which means to 'plan and direct the course of travel'.

navigate



3. Why do you think that some blind people have developed echolocation abilities?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that some blind people will have developed echolocation abilities as a way of being able to sense what's around them without needing to use eyesight.



4. Summarise echolocation in one sentence.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Echolocation is when creatures use sound waves to work out an object's location.