# SOUND AND WAVES

## **Key Concepts**

- Sound is caused by vibrations and travels as a wave.
- Waves transfer energy from one place to another.

# **Key Facts to Remember**

- Sound waves are longitudinal waves, where particles vibrate parallel to the wave direction.
- Sound cannot travel through a vacuum; it needs a medium like air, water, or solids.
- The speed of sound in air is about 343 m/s.
- Pitch depends on the frequency of the sound wave; high frequency = high pitch.
- Loudness depends on the wave's amplitude; larger amplitude = louder sound.
- Echoes are sound waves reflected off surfaces.
- Humans hear frequencies between 20 Hz and 20,000 Hz.
- Ultrasound is sound with frequencies above 20,000 Hz, used in medical imaging.

### **Quick Questions**

- 1. What causes sound?
- 2. Name the type of wave sound travels as.
- 3. Can sound travel through a vacuum?
- 4. What determines the pitch of a sound?
- 5. What affects the loudness of a sound?
- 6. What is the speed of sound in air?
- 7. What range of frequencies can humans hear?
- 8. What is ultrasound used for?

#### **Fun Fact**

The loudest sound recorded on Earth was the eruption of Krakatoa in 1883 it was heard 3,000 miles away!

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