What's In Your Ear?

Listen up! Your ear is an amazing acoustic instrument. It's designed to hear all kinds of sounds, from loud thunderclaps to quiet whispers. Find out how it works by coloring in its parts with crayons, colored pencils, or colored markers.

a. Outer ear (pink)
b. Ear canal (orange)
c. Ear drum (blue)
d. Eustachian tube (gray)
e. Malleus (purple)
f. Incus (red)
g. Stapes (black)
h. Semicircular canals (green)
i. Cochlea (white)
j. Auditory nerve (yellow)

Outer ear--the outside part that you can see and touch. Helps to funnel the sound towards inside.

Ear canal--A tube that filters and focuses sound.

Ear drum--A thin sheet of tissue that vibrates when sound hits it.

Eustachian tube--A tube that connects the ear to the throat, so that pressure doesn't damage the ear.

Malleus--One of three tiny bones that helps to turn sound into electrical signals.

Incus--One of three tiny bones that helps to turn sound into electrical signals.

Stapes--One of three tiny bones that helps to turn sound into electrical signals.

Semicircular canals--Fluid-filled tubes that help you maintain your balance.

Cochlea--The main organ of hearing, a tiny fluid-filled spiral of neurons.

Auditory nerve--Relays electrical signals from the ear to the brain.