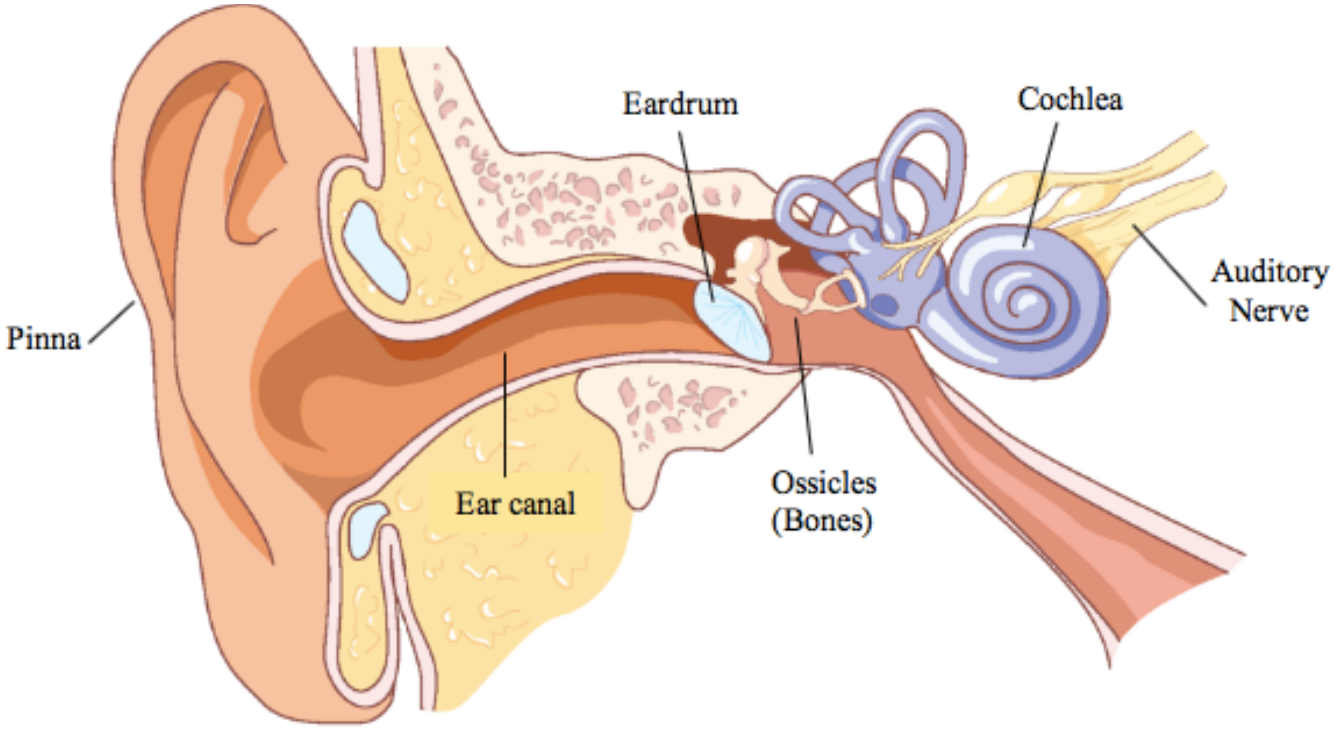
HOW WE HEAR

Outer ear Middle ear Inner ear



Our ears consist of three different parts: outer ear, middle ear, and inner ear.

The outer ear consists of the pinna and the ear canal. The pinna and ear canal are responsible for funneling sound into the rest of the ear.

The middle ear consists of the eardrum and a chain of three tiny bones. When sound waves travel into the ear canal, it causes the eardrum and chain of bones to vibrate. These vibrations push the sound further into the inner ear.

The inner ear consists of a snail-shell-shaped organ called the cochlea. The cochlea is filled with fluid. When the middle ear bones vibrate, the fluid in the cochlea moves. The fluid movement excites thousands of tiny hair cells in the cochlea. These hair cells send electrical signals to the brain via the auditory nerve. The brain is able to interpret these signals as sound.

Hearing loss can be caused when one or more parts of our ear does not work properly.

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