

Does a Treefall Make a Sound if No One Can Hear It?

No. If there are no ears (human or animal) to detect the vibrational movements of air molecules caused by the treefall, and no brains to convert the vibrations into sound [qualia](#), then no, the tree doesn't make a sound. If there are ears and brains nearby (human or animal), then yes, they will hear the sound caused by the treefall.

Actually, ears and brains don't really "make" sounds, either. They experience sound qualia within their brains' auditory cortices. When an event occurs that causes a disturbance in the air pressure field, the movement of air molecules in this disturbance can be detected by an ear. When the ear detects these movements, it sends electrical signals to the brain's auditory cortex. The auditory cortex contains advanced technology that orients the configuration of a [conscious electromagnetic \(EM\) field](#) in such a way that sound qualia are experienced. The sound qualia are properties of the EM field, which are experienced by the brain.

At present, we don't know how the sound qualia technology works within the brain's auditory cortex, and we don't know how to reproduce the effect with non-biological devices. But it does appear that the technology that produces the sound qualia (as well as the other sensory qualia, i.e. sight, taste, smell, and touch) is made possible by the homochirality of complex molecular structures within the brain cells. (See ["How Do We Create Color Qualia?"](#))