

Student Discussion Worksheet

Directions: Read the online *Science News* article "[New high-speed video reveals the physics of a finger snap](#)" and [watch this video](#) before answering the following questions as directed by your teacher. A version of the article, "Camera captures physics in a snap," appears in the December 18, 2021 & January 1, 2022 issue of *Science News*.

Sounding off on a snap

1. Explain the physics behind snapping your fingers to create a sound.
2. How does friction impact a finger snap?
3. List conditions that make finger snaps fall flat. Explain why snaps don't make much sound under such conditions.
4. What popular film inspired the study described in the article? What procedure did the researchers follow to assess the scientific accuracy of a scene in the film? Is the scene scientifically accurate? Explain.
5. How would the scene have to be adjusted to be scientifically accurate?

Fact or fiction?

1. Think of a scene in a movie or TV show that features a scientific concept you learned this semester. Using your scientific knowledge, discuss whether or not the scene is scientifically accurate.
2. If the scene is not scientifically accurate or not as accurate as it could be, what conditions or adjustments could make it so? Explain.

3. There are many online videos of science demonstrations, and some may show outcomes that cannot be reproduced. Find a video of a science demonstration that you would be interested in re-creating. Name scientific principles and concepts you would need to know to verify whether or not the outcome of the demonstration is scientifically possible. What conditions would have to exist for the outcome shown in the video to occur?

