PhET Wave on a String

Student Exploration Guide

Name

Date

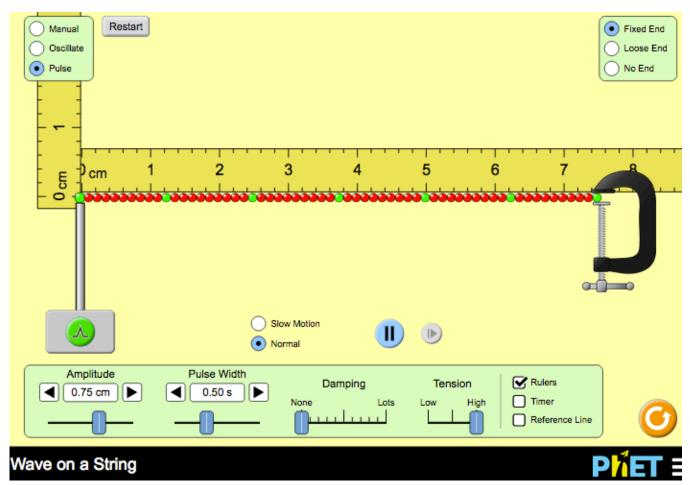
Learning Goals:

- I will be able to measure wavelength on a transverse wave.
- I will be able to explain how amplitude is not related to frequency or wavelength.
- I will be able to explain how frequency and wavelength are inversely related.

<u>Set Up</u>

Click on the Wave On A String Link. (HTML5)

- 1. Set the top controls to **Pulse** and **Fixed End**.
- 2. On the bottom menu:
 - Move the **Damping** slider to None
 - Keep the **Tension** at High
 - Check mark **Rulers**, and move the rulers to look like the image below.



The green button will send a single pulse:



First Activity: Amplitude

- 1. Hit the green button once to generate a pulse. What happens to the pulse when it reaches the fixed end? _
- Restart 2. To stop the wave but keep all settings the same, click Restart.
- 3. Which slider will adjust the starting height of the wave?
- 4. What is the maximum height possible?
- 5. Which slider makes the height of the wave decrease as it travels?_____

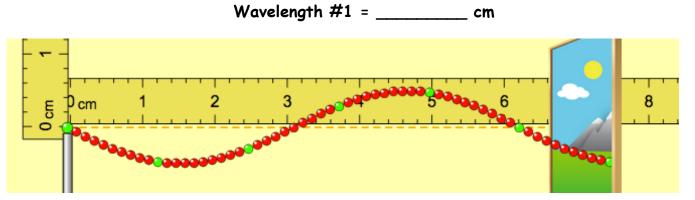
Second Activity: Wavelength and Amplitude

• Set your controls to Oscillate and No End



- Select Slow Motion Slow Motion
- Set amplitude at 0.50 cm and frequency at 1.00 Hz.
- Use the pause button to stop the wave for easier measurement.
- 6. Move the horizontal ruler to measure the wavelength. Remember: Crest to Crest or Trough to Trough. Such as in the image below.

Each tiny mark on the ruler equates to 0.2 cm



- 7. Double the amplitude so it is now at 1.00 cm, but keep the frequency at 1.00 Hz.
- 8. Restart the wave. Play the oscillation, then pause it.
- 9. Move the horizontal ruler to measure the wavelength. Wavelength #2 = _____cm
- 10. How does the wavelength #1 compare to wavelength #2? _____

11. Did changing the amplitude affect the wavelength?_____

Third Activity: Wavelength and Frequency

Set your controls to
Oscillate

nd No End

Slow Motion

- Keep amplitude at 1.00 $\,cm$ and change the frequency to 1.50 Hz.
- Use the pause button to stop the wave for easier measurement.
- 12. Move the horizontal ruler to measure the wavelength. Wavelength #3 = _____cm
- 13. Set the frequency so it is now at 2.00 Hz, but keep the amplitude at 1.00 cm.
- 14. Restart the wave. Play the oscillation, then pause it.
- 15. Move the horizontal ruler to measure the wavelength. Wavelength #4 = _____cm
- 16. Set the frequency so it is now at 3.00 Hz. Keep the amplitude at 1.00 cm.
- 17. Restart the wave. Play the oscillation, then pause it.
- 18. Move the horizontal ruler to measure the wavelength. Wavelength #5 = _____cm

19. Summarize your data in the chart below.

Data #	FREQUENCY (Hz)	WAVELENGTH (cm)
#1	1.00 Hz	
#2	1.00 Hz	
#3	1.50 Hz	
#4	2.00 Hz	
#5	3.00 Hz	

20. Why did the summary chart not include any information about the amplitude?

21. Did changing the frequency affect the wavelength? _____

22. As the frequency increased, what happened to the wavelength?_____

23. What happens to the wavelength of a wave if the frequency is doubled?

24. What happens to the wavelength of a wave if the frequency is tripled?