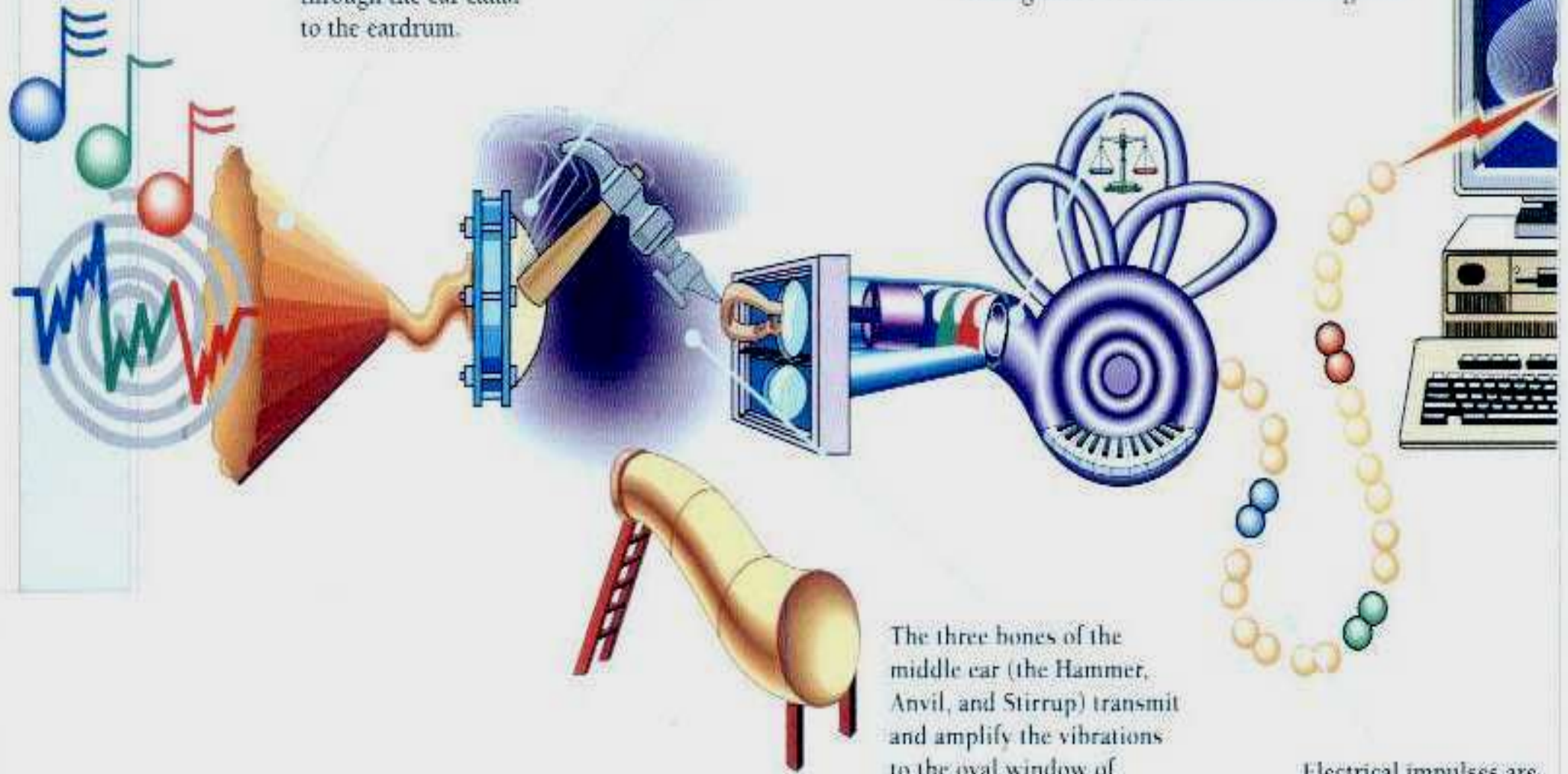


Sound vibrations are collected by the ear and are funneled through the ear canal to the eardrum.

Sound waves cause the eardrum to vibrate.

Fluid in the inner ear stimulates special nerve endings called hair cells, represented by the piano keys. Damage to these hair cells is a leading cause of sensorineural hearing loss.



The three bones of the middle ear (the Hammer, Anvil, and Stirrup) transmit and amplify the vibrations to the oval window of the inner ear. Conductive loss generally occurs in this middle ear area.

Electrical impulses are sent from the hair cells along the auditor nerve to the brain.