

1.19 Information about bats

Topic: Animals
Subtopic: Mammals
Activity type/skill: Graphic organisation
Literacy focus: Reading
Genre: Information reports

Objective

- Place information in a graphic outline.

What you need

- Student worksheet (see next page)
- [Audio track 1.19](#)

What to do

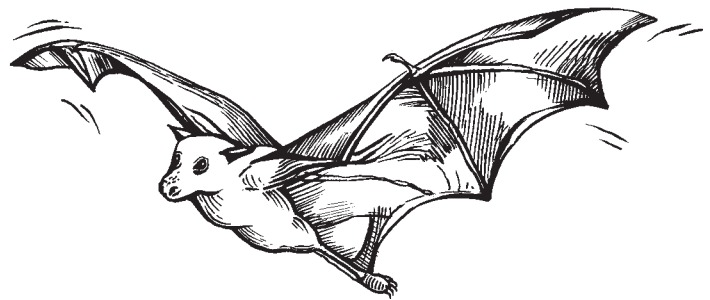
1. Introduce bats as mammals. Look at the first two pages of the student worksheet and talk about the pictures together.
2. Play track 1.19 (Track 5 for this topic) and have students listen to the text being read while they read along.
3. Point out the glossary at the end of the text. Remind the students that the glossary contains specialist vocabulary that is not explained in the text or illustrations. Talk about the words in the glossary.
4. Look at the third page of the student worksheet and explain that these are notes that give a summary of the text.
5. Play the track again and have students listen and read the notes.
6. Show students how to organise the notes using the boxes on the fourth page of the student worksheet. Ask them copy all the notes to the appropriate boxes.
7. Compare how students have grouped these and discuss.
8. Working in pairs, have students take turns to ask questions about the text using question forms from Activity 1.18. Encourage students to use the notes about bats as reference but give their answers in full sentences.



BATS

Bats are the only mammals that can fly.

Bats have small heads and big ears. Their bodies are covered with fur. Bats have wings. Their wings are joined to their arms, fingers and leg bones. Their wings are made of strong skin.



Bats live in forests and other dark places.

Bats sleep in the daytime. They fold their wings and hang upside down to sleep. Their sharp, curved toes help them to hang upside down. They sleep in dark places like caves and hollow trees.

Bats look for food at night. Most bats eat insects, but some bats eat flowers, fruit, small mammals or fish.



BAT SONAR

Bats use a kind of “sonar” to help them find their food in the dark. When they fly at night they squeak. The squeaks echo back from moving insects. The bat hears the echoes. The echoes also help the bats to fly through forests in the dark.



Female bats have one baby at a time. They feed the baby for about 60 days. Baby bats stay close together to keep warm when their mothers fly to look for food. The mothers know their own babies from the special sound they make.

In cold countries bats hibernate in winter.

Bats live for about five years.

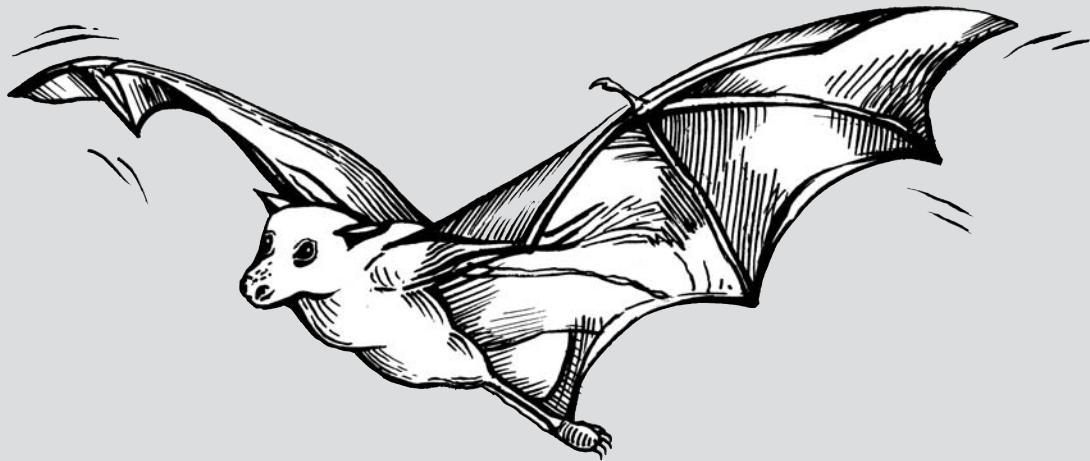
Glossary

an echo: a sound that comes back to you after it hits something

hibernate: sleep all the time in winter

a squeak: a short high sound like the sound of a bat or a mouse

hollow: something that usually has nothing inside



- look for food at night
- fly
- small heads
- eat insects, fruit, small mammals, fish
- sharp, curved toes
- hear very well
- use “sonar”
- have wings
- sleep upside down
- have one baby
- mammals
- hibernate in winter in cold places
- live for about five years
- bodies covered with fur
- sleep during the day
- forests

What do they look like?

Where do they live?

BATS

What are they?

What do they eat?

What do they do?