

My Journey Home

Family Connection

This week your child is reading a selection titled *Bat Loves the Night*. It follows a mother bat on her nighttime outing and, along the way, teaches your child about bats.

DAY
1

Are Bats Bad? Bats are sometimes portrayed as bad, but in the selection this week, your child has learned that bats can be helpful, such as by eating mosquitoes. Ask your child why bats are sometimes shown as bad characters. Can your child think of other animals that are shown as bad characters, such as a wolf, fox, or snake? How are these animals actually helpful?

CHALLENGE

Have your child write a paragraph persuading people that bats are good for our environment.

DAY
2

Vocabulary on the Go Look at a picture of a bat with your child. Talk about how the bat moves, incorporating these words if possible: *twitch, swoops, squeak, echoes, detail, slithers, dozes, and snuggles.*

DAY
3

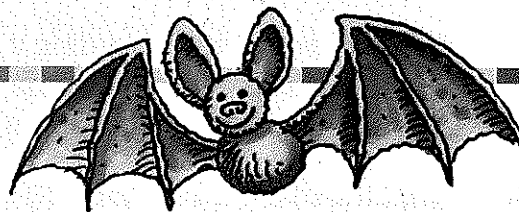
Bats at Night Bats are nocturnal animals. Take your child outside at night. Sit quietly and enjoy the sights and sounds. Discuss with your child why bats find it more helpful to rely on hearing rather than seeing when they are out at night.

Echolocation Bats travel by echolocation, where they emit sounds and feel the vibrations that bounce back to them. Help your child understand how sound produces vibrations.

Sound

Materials

rubber band



1. Stretch a rubber band between your thumb and pointer finger.
2. With the pointer finger on your other hand, pull one side of the rubber band and release it.
3. Now, hold your hand on your vocal chords on your neck as you talk.
4. What do you see, hear, and feel?
5. What do you think is happening with the rubber band and your vocal chords when the sound is being made?

Wing Span Bats are sometimes divided into two groups depending on their size: mega and micro. To measure wingspan, scientists measure the bats from tips to tips. Mega bats can have a wingspan up to 6 feet, while micro bats can be as small as 1 inch. Help your child use a ruler and some string to measure and compare the two wingspans.



Book Links

- *Stellaluna*, by Janell Cannon
- *The Bat Scientists*, by Mary Kay Carson **CHALLENGE**



Internet Challenge With your child, do an Internet search to find out about NASA's study of bats. Discuss why NASA might be interested in bats.