



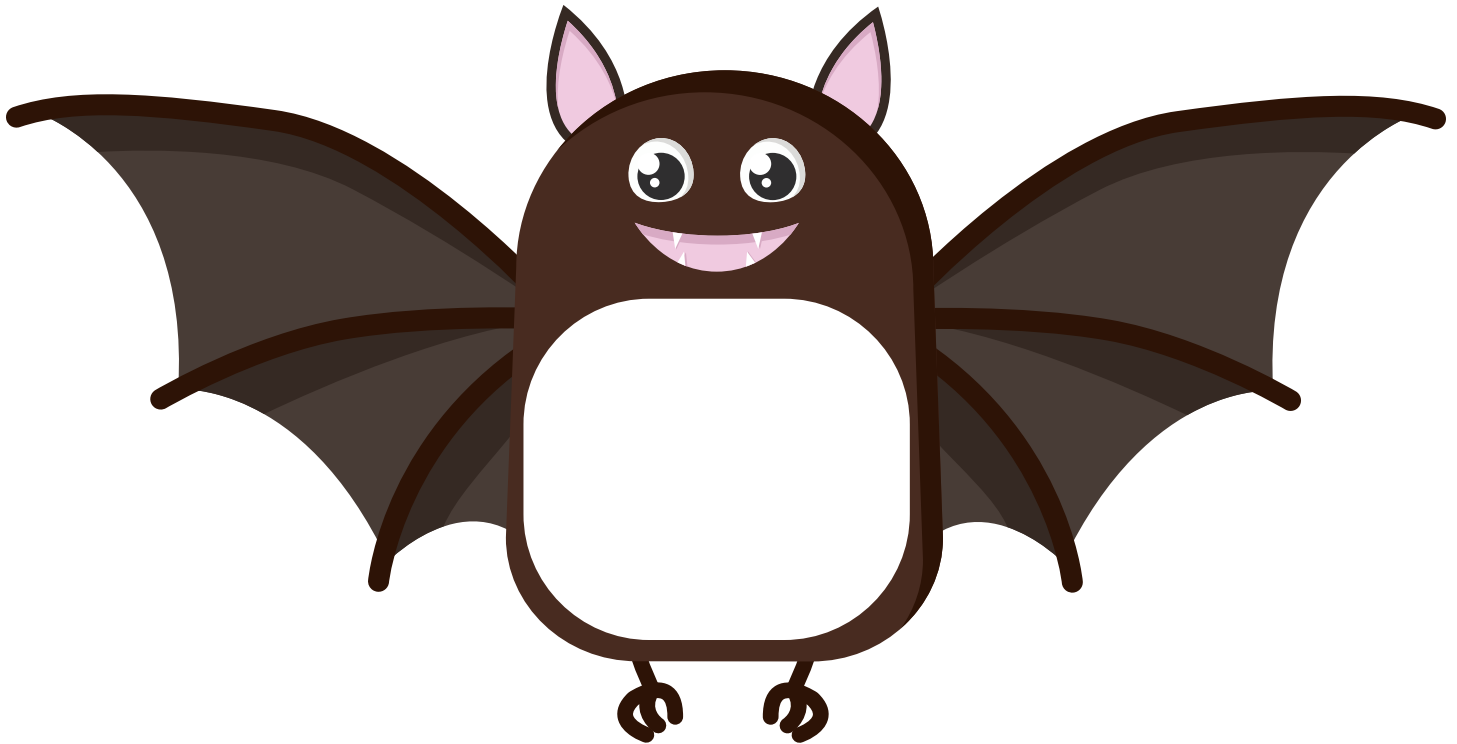
ALL ABOUT BATS

Bats are super important and friendly creatures, but years of storytelling showing bats as the “bad guy” have given them an undeserved bad reputation. Bats are the only flying mammals and worldwide there are over 1400 different types, each with their own special role to play in ecosystems. Here in Ontario there are eight species, many of which might go extinct. It’s time we learn all about bats and give them the appreciation they deserve!

Activity 1: Feed the Bat

Our local bats LOVE eating insects. In fact, they are important predators of insects and help keep their numbers under control. Did you know the Little Brown Bat can eat its weight in insects each night? Without bats we’d have to use a lot more pesticides and bug spray!

So let’s feed this bat! Grab some dice and give them a roll four times. After each roll draw the same number of insects in the bat’s belly. After four rolls how many insects did our bat eat?
Print this document or grab a piece of paper to draw your own bat!



Activity 2: Bat and Moth



Bat Myth Busting 101: Bats are not blind! Bats can actually see perfectly fine, but hunting tiny, moving insects in the dark can be tricky. It's a good thing bats have a special sense to navigate and find prey; it's called **echolocation**. Just like when our voice echoes in a cave, bats shout out a high frequency sound that bounces off objects (like their food) and reflects back to tell them where things are. A small ridge in their ear called a **tragus** helps them with hearing (you have one too!). Time to play a game of Bat and Moth!

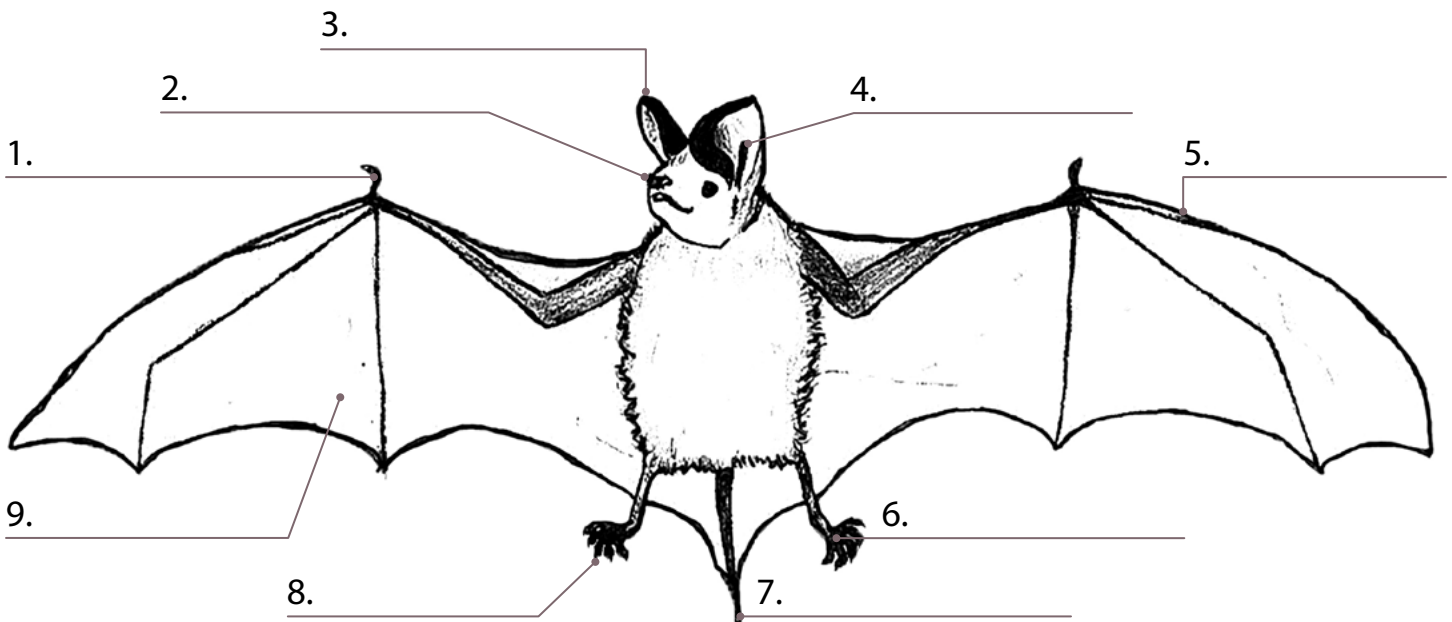
1. Gather up your family and decide who will be the bat and who will be moths.
 2. Ok, ok, we said bats aren't blind, but for this game the bat is going to keep their eyes closed while trying to find the moths.
 3. Bat, your job is to move around and clap your hands to make a call.
 4. Moths, if the bat is facing you when they clap you must reply with two spoons hit together.
 5. Using these sounds the bat must try and tag the moths without peeking!
- Have a big family? Add in another bat!

Activity 3: Label that Bat

Using the words provided, try to label parts of the bat.
You can also print this off and colour it!

ANSWERS:
1. thumb
2. nose
3. ear
4. tragus
5. finger
6. foot
7. tail
8. claw
9. wing

Words: **wing, foot, claw, tragus, thumb, tail, ear, finger, nose**



Activity 4: Which bat are you?

- A. I can't get enough of hanging out with my family and friends.
- B. I am independent and love my own company.

In the winter I'd prefer to:

- A. Stay cozy at home.
- B. Travel south where it is warmer.

I prefer to hang out:

- A. In the city.
- B. In the forest.

If you answered mostly A, you are the Little Brown Bat.

Once the most common bat in Ontario, the Little Brown Bat is now an endangered species! Little Brown Bats can thrive both in the country and in cities. They prefer to roost (sleep during the day time) in tree cavities and human-made structures like buildings and bridges. They often roost with many other bats. In the winter these bats travel to quiet, cool, and moist locations like caves where they can hibernate.



If you answered mostly B, you are the Eastern Red Bat.

The Eastern Red Bat is truly a strong, silent type. They aren't as social as some of their cousins and prefer to be independent. Eastern Red Bats love hanging out in the forest and will roost during the day in trees. You'd think they'd be easy to spot, but their red fur camouflages really well with the trees they choose! While most bats give birth to up to two pups, Eastern Red Bats can have up to four pups! Rather than stick around for the winter, these bats fly or migrate south for warmer temperatures. Red bats try to grab a snack almost every 30 seconds throughout the night! Wow, are they hungry!



DID YOU KNOW?

Bats are more closely related to humans than they are to mice!

DID YOU KNOW?

The Little Brown bat weighs about the same as a loonie or toonie!

