



The Desert Speaks

#501 Bats

Teacher Information Sheet

Program Description

Bats, the night-time counterpart to birds, are the only mammals that truly take wing. These furry flyers take care of business at night, eating insects, pollinating flowers, and generally playing a vital role in the desert ecosystem. This program highlights the natural history of these mammals, and explains how bats adapt to different environments, and find their way around in the dark.

Teaching Tips

1. Discuss vocabulary words
2. Introduce the episode by giving a brief summary of the program and telling students what information you would like them to gain by viewing the program.
3. Allow time at the conclusion of the program for discussion and the completion of the *Student Viewing Sheet*.
4. Investigate the related web sites listed below.

Vocabulary Words

- nocturnal active at night
- mammals warm blooded animals who are covered by fur or hair and produces milk for its young
- echolocation the sonar like system used by bats to detect objects by emitting high-pitched sounds that reflect off the object and return to their ears

Related Program

Reading Rainbow episode #108 *Stellaluna*.

Viewers see bats in their natural habitat and visit with a bat expert.

Visit the web site for information concerning broadcast dates and a corresponding Teacher's Guide.

<http://gpn.unl.edu/rainbow>

Related Web Sites

BatQuest

A web quest about bats using the story *Stellaluna* as a springboard.

<http://projects.edtech.sandi.net/chavez/batquest/batquest.html>

Bats, Bats Everywhere

A web site created especially for children. Includes a wide variety of bat related information

<http://members.aol.com/bats4kids>

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Student Viewing Sheet

Use information in the video to answer the following questions.

Bat Facts

1. Bats are _____. They have _____ covering their bodies and they produce _____ for their young.
2. Bats play an important role in our ecosystem. They eat _____ and _____ flowers.
3. A bat is a nocturnal animal which means that they are more active at _____.
4. Bats eat a tremendous amount of food each night. Sometimes as much as _____ percent of their body weight.
5. Bats have an unusual skill called _____ which allows them to navigate by bouncing echoes off of objects.
6. There are _____ known species of bats in Arizona. All but two are _____ eaters.
7. Name 2 ways a mother bat cares for its young. _____

8. Name 2 kinds of bats mentioned in the video. _____

What Do You Think?

1. Why do bats sometimes have a "bad" reputation? _____

2. Has your opinion of bats changed after learning more about them? If so, how has it changed?

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Answer Key

Bat Facts

1. mammals; fur; milk
2. insects; pollinate
3. night
4. 40%
5. echolocation
6. 38; insect
7. she keeps it warm and supplies it with milk
8. long nose bat, Mexican long tongue bat, pallid bat, mastiff bat, brown bat, Mexican free tail bat, twilight bat

What Do You Think?

Answers will vary