

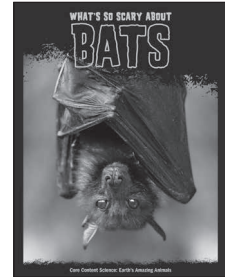
EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

Core Content Science: Earth's Amazing Animals

What's So Scary About Bats

Series Overview

Many people are afraid of wild animals. But many of these animals are not scary at all! In fact, they are fascinating creatures that often help make the world a better place. Each book explores a different “scary” animal and presents fun facts, important information, and, yes, some warnings, as young readers learn why scary animals are often the most interesting.



Lexile: 650 Words: 1,619

About This Book

Bats have a bad reputation as blood-sucking creatures of the night. But these fascinating mammals actually help people by eating insect pests and pollinating fruit trees and flowers. In this book packed with fun facts and vivid photographs, readers will learn all about the bat's amazing body, its habits and activities, and how they can help this important species survive.

NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS ALIGNMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The activities and learning ideas in this guide have been correlated with the **Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)**: <https://www.nextgenscience.org/>

This title most closely relates to the following standard: **Students can use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive. (K-LS1-1.)**



Before Reading

Building Background Knowledge:

- Ask students to raise their hands if they are afraid of bats. Write down the number of students who are afraid of bats on the board. Invite those students to share why they are afraid of bats. Tell them that the book will explain why most bats are not so scary after all.
- Turn to page 31 and point out the glossary to students. Explain that a glossary is a text feature that gives the definitions of vocabulary words in a book. Tell students that when they see a bolded word in the book, they can turn to the glossary to read its definition.

Skill Introduction: Write the word “fact” on the board. Tell students that a fact is a piece of information that is true. Then write the word “myth” on the board. Explain that a myth is something that is believed by many people but that is not true. Tell students that they’ll be learning many facts about bats in the book, but also some myths.

During Reading

Collect Important Facts: After you read each section, invite students to share one important fact they learned about bats. Write these facts on the board, have students write them in their notebooks, or just discuss them verbally.

Reinforce Vocabulary: At the end of each section, have students turn to the glossary to read the definition of any bolded vocabulary words they don’t know. Ask students to share any other words they are unfamiliar with, then go over the definitions with them.

After Reading

- Once again, ask students to raise their hands if they are afraid of bats. Write down the number of students who are afraid of bats on the board. Is the number smaller than the one you wrote before reading the book?
- Divide students into groups of two to four. Have each group make a list of key details and facts from the book that show that bats are actually not so scary after all. Invite each group to share their list with the class.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- **10 Brilliant Bat Facts! (Nat Geo Kids):** <https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/animals/general-animals/bat-facts/>
- **Bat Facts for Kids (Kiddle):** <https://kids.kiddle.co/Bat>
- **13 Awesome Facts About Bats (U.S. Department of the Interior):** <https://www.doi.gov/blog/13-facts-about-bats>

VIDEOS

- **Science Trek: Bats (PBS):** <https://www.pbs.org/video/science-trek-bats/>
- **Cool Facts About Bats: Things You Wanna Know (Nat Geo Kids):** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NBCODnTUOrY>
- **Introducing: The Bat Squad! (Bat Conservation International):** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=veJ0R7T50Qo>

STUDENT ACTIVITY: FACT VS. MYTH

Ask students to raise their hands to share some common myths about bats. Write these myths on the board. Then ask students to write a paragraph that proves one of these myths wrong using facts from the book.

