

It's a bird, it's a plane, it's a....bat!
Bats are the world's only flying mammals.

Long live bats! For such a small mammal, bats have a very long lifespan. Little brown bats can live for over 30 years!



What's that?
Unlike other bats, the spotted bat makes echolocation sounds that humans can hear.

What big ears you have! Bats use echolocation to find their way around and to hunt for food. They produce sounds which bounce off objects in front of them and come back to the bat's ears. A bat can tell by these sounds if the object is a tree or a moth, how far away it is and which direction it's moving in.

Zzzzz! Some bats hibernate in the winter. During hibernation their heart rate slows from 200 beats per minute to 5 beats per minute.

That's handy!
Bats belong to the order Chiroptera which means "hand wing". The bones in a bat's wing are elongated finger bones.

What an appetite!
All bats in British Columbia eat insects. Bats must eat at least half of their body weight in insects every night. A little brown bat can eat 600 mosquitoes in an hour.

Good night! Bats are nocturnal, which means that they are only active at night.

Blind as a what?
Contrary to popular belief, bats actually have excellent eyesight.

Big babies!
Female bats usually give birth to one pup. Pups are a quarter of their mother's weight. Pregnant bats gather together in large maternity roosts that may house hundreds of bats. Within 3 weeks of being born, pups are full grown and can fly on their own.

Make a bat hat!

(Works best if printed on 11" x 17" paper)

