



A I M S

## B a t s I n c r e d i b l e !

**Target Audience:** Grades 2-4 but can be adapted for younger and older youth.

**Description:** Youth explore the often misunderstood world of the bat. The activities in *Bats Incredible!* take youth through lessons on: physical characteristics of bats, flight, echolocation, habitats, and the role bats play in the ecosystem. The lessons combine to show youth the bats' uniqueness and their important role in our ecosystems, thereby calming fears and misconceptions about these animals.

**Format:** Each of these sessions can be presented in one class period from 45-60 minutes.

### **Session 1: The Magic School Bus Goes Batty**

Youth watch "The Magic School Bus Goes Batty" DVD and then discuss the myths that surround bats helping them to see the bats' importance in the ecosystem.

### **Session 2: Just Between Bats**

Youth learn about the unique physical characteristics of bats by examining several species of bats. This lesson includes an activity on comparing and measuring the wingspans of megabats and microbats.

### **Session 3: Noses for Nectar**

Youth learn that megabats eat fruit, nectar, and pollen and don't use echolocation for navigations. The activity, "Noses for Nectar" helps youth see how bats' noses collect pollen, and help with the pollination of plants.

### **Session 4: Inside a Bat**

Youth study bat anatomy and wing structure by comparing bat wings to the human hand. Youth will use toothpicks to construct a simplified model of the wing structure of a bat.

### **Session 5: Echolocation**

Youth learn how bats use sound (echolocation) to determine the location of their prey. This lesson includes a simulation activity in which youth attempt to catch a moving object using only their sense of hearing.

### **Session 6: Family Sense**

Youth investigate the family structure of bats and how bats care for their young. The activity in this lesson shows youth how mother bats are able to locate their pups in the bat “nursery” through scent, sound, and location memory.

“Bats Incredible!” includes the AIMS “Bat’s Incredible!” lesson manual in its entirety which includes several more lessons not included here.

The “Bats Incredible!” curriculum and activity kit can be borrowed for one month.

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