



Bats Incredible!

Provided by:
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Information	Program Description
2nd-4th Grade, but can be adapted for younger and older students.	Students explore the often misunderstood world of the bat. The activities in <i>Bats Incredible!</i> take students through lessons on: physical characteristics of bats, flight, echolocation, habitats, and the role bats play in the ecosystem. The lessons combine to show students the bats' uniqueness and their important role in our ecosystems, thereby calming fears and misconceptions about these animals.
Curriculum Format	Each lesson can be presented in 45-60 minutes. Teaching Guide with complete instructions is provided. Teaching Kit with materials needed to present lessons is provided. User may need to provide standard classroom supplies (pencils, scissors, glue). If a lesson requires perishable items (e.g. milk), user is responsible for these purchases.

Lesson	Overview
One: The Magic School Bus Goes Batty	Students 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.
Two: Just Between Bats	Students 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.
Three: Noses for Nectar	Students learn that megabats eat fruit, nectar, and pollen and don't use echolocation for navigations. The activity, "Noses for Nectar" helps students see how bats' noses collect pollen, and help with the pollination of plants.
Four: Inside a Bat	Students study bat anatomy and wing structure by comparing bat wings to the human hand. Students will use toothpicks to construct a simplified model of the wing structure of a bat.
Five: Echolocation	Students learn how bats use sound (echolocation) to determine the location of their prey. This lesson includes a simulation activity in which students attempt to catch a moving object using only their sense of hearing.
Six: Family Sense	Students investigate the family structure of bats and how bats care for their young. The activity in this lesson shows students how mother bats are able to locate their pups in the bat "nursery" through scent, sound, and location memory.

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