Biology

Bats

Grade Level: K-3
Classroom Time: 45 Minutes
Materials: black construction paper, white chalk, black yarn, hole punch, scissors

Objectives:
1. Given instruction and reading materials, students will describe the anatomy of a bat.
2. Given instruction and materials, students will make a paper bat.
3. Children will recite a poem about bats.

Teacher's introduction to the activity:

Bats are mammals in the order Chiroptera. Mammals are warm blooded, nurse their young and have fur. They are the only mammals that can fly. Bat wings are made of two thin layers of skin stretched over the bat's arm and fingers. Bats have a thumb and four fingers. The bat's fingers are very long compared to its body. Bat wings go all the way down the side of the bat's body and partway down its legs. Baby bats (pups) are tiny when born, but grow up fast. Some species are flying and hunting on their own within a month of birth. Bats usually have one baby that is born without hair. They are born with strong legs and claws because they have to hang on to mom when she's roosting and to the cave when she's not there.

Bats can wrap their wings around insects or fruit to hold it while eating. Bats play an important role in nature. They spread the seeds of the fruit they eat and are responsible for scattering up to 95% of the seeds needed for new trees in tropical rain forests. There are also a number of bats that eat insects. Those that hunt insects are "nocturnal".

Instead of relying on their sense of sight for night-time vision, bats make rapid high-pitched squeaks called "ultrasounds". These sounds are too high for most people to hear. If these sounds hit something, they bounce back; this is called "echolocation." The bat hears the echo and can find the object. Bats have the best hearing of all land mammals. They often have huge ears compared to the rest of the body.

Instruction:
1. Read the information on Bats.
2. Trace around the bat pattern on black construction paper with white chalk.
3. Eyes can be drawn or made with a paper punch.
4. Fold on the lines as indicated.
5. Black yarn is taped to the upper side for hanging.

Skills: Art, Life Science, Reading comprehension.
Vocabulary: Echolocation, Mammal, Nocturnal, Ultrasounds

Amazing Bats

Amazing bats like to eat——
Thousands of bugs for a tasty treat.
Flying through the moonlit air——
Traveling here and traveling there.
Hibernating when the weather’s cold,
Gathered with hundreds of friends, I’m told.
Many bats are endangered, I’m sad to say——
There are fewer and fewer bats every day.
Be kind to bats, that’s the thing to do——
Tell your friends and your family too!
• Bats are flying mammals.
• While other mammals can glide, bats are the only mammals capable of continued flight.
• There are over 1000 different bat species.
• Bats are nocturnal (active at night).
• Bats ‘see’ in the dark using a special skill called echolocation. Bats make noises and wait for the sound waves to bounce back off objects (an echo), if it doesn’t bounce back then they can safely fly forward. They can tell the distance of various objects by how quickly the sound waves bounce back to them.
• Most bats feed on insects; some eat fruit.
• Some bats live by themselves while others live in caves with thousands of other bats.
• Bats can live for over 20 years.