

All About Bats

The Amazing World of Bats

Bats are interesting creatures.

Bats are shy and gentle animals. Some people are afraid of bats. That is usually because they don't know these facts about bats.

Bats are mammals

Bats are the only **mammals** that can fly. A mammal is a warm-blooded animal that has fur or hair on its body. Female mammals feed their babies milk from their bodies. A baby bat is called a **pup**.



Konrad Wothe/Getty Images

Bats are night animals

Bats are **nocturnal**. That means they sleep during the day and are active at night. Bats sleep hanging upside down. Most bats live in caves and trees. A bat's home is called a **roost**.

Bats are helpers

Most bats feed on insects. One bat can eat hundreds of insects in an hour! Without bats, those insects would eat crops that farmers grow.

Some bats eat fruits. They drop seeds in different places. That helps new plants grow.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Answer the following four questions based on the information in the passage.

1. In what position do bats sleep?

2. Where do most bats live?

3. Why could bats be considered helpers?

4. What is this passage mostly about?

Directions: Please read the sentence below and then write the word or phrase that best answers the questions. The first answer has been provided for you.

Bats sleep hanging upside down in caves and trees during the day.

What? bats

5. (do) What?

6. Where?

7. When?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Bats can fly, _____ other mammals cannot.

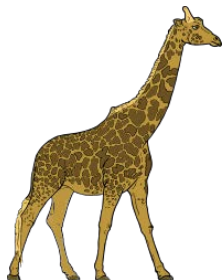
- A but
- B because
- C so

Directions: Read the vocabulary word and definition below. Then answer questions 9 and 10.

Vocabulary Word: **nocturnal** (noc · tur · nal): describes animals that sleep during the day and are active at night.

9. Read the sentences below and underline all forms of the word **nocturnal**.
- a. Raccoons are nocturnal animals, so you mostly see them running around at night.
 - b. An owl is a nocturnal animal, so you hear it hooting more at night.
 - c. Nocturnal animals like to sleep during the day and move around at night.
 - d. If an animal is nocturnal, it may be hard to find during the day.
 - e. Animals that are nocturnal hunt for food at night.

10. Which animal is NOT nocturnal?



Teacher Guide and Answer Key

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 520

Featured Text Structure: Descriptive – the writer explains, defines, or illustrates a concept or topic

Passage Summary: “All About Bats” describes bats. It mentions that they are mammals, nocturnal, and helpful.

To the Teacher: Read the passage aloud to the class [TIP: while reading aloud, show the passage on a whiteboard or give each student a copy of the passage so they can follow along].

Then, use the text-dependent questions 1-8 to facilitate a whole class discussion to ensure students comprehend the key details from the passage.

Finally, use questions 9-10 to deep teach one important vocabulary word [TIP: you can use the model provided for teaching additional vocabulary].

1. In what position do bats sleep? [Important Detail]

Suggested answer: Bats sleep upside down. [paragraph 3]

2. Where do most bats live? [Important Detail]

Suggested answer: Most bats live in caves and trees. [paragraph 3]

3. Why could bats be considered helpers? [Inferential]

Suggested answer: Bats could be considered helpers because (1) they eat insects that would otherwise eat crops and (2) some bats eat fruit and then drop seeds in different places, which helps new plants grow. [paragraphs 4 and 5]

4. What is this passage mostly about? [Main Idea]

Suggested answer: This passage is about the characteristics of bats.

Directions: Please read the sentence below and then write the word or phrase that best answers the questions. The first answer has been provided for you.

Bats sleep hanging upside down in caves and trees during the day.

What? bats

5. (do) What? **sleep hanging upside down**
6. Where? **in caves and trees**
7. When? **during the day**
8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Bats can fly, _____ other mammals cannot.

A but

B because

C so

To the Teacher: ReadWorks recommends that you teach this vocabulary word to the whole class out loud using the four steps listed below.

Vocabulary Word: **nocturnal** (noc · tur · nal): describes animals that sleep during the day and are active at night.

Step 1: Introduce the word

- a. Teacher writes the word on the board and divides it into syllables: (noc · tur · nal)
- b. Teacher says: "This word is nocturnal. What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "Nocturnal."]

Step 2: Provide a child-friendly definition

- a. Teacher says: "Nocturnal describes animals that sleep during the day and are active at night."
- b. Teacher says: "Bats sleep during the day, and they are up at night. They are nocturnal animals."

- c. Teacher says: "What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "Nocturnal."]

Step 3: Practice the word

Teacher provides examples and additional opportunities to repeat the word. Read the first sentence out loud to your students. Begin reading it again and when you come to the vocabulary word prompt students to say the vocabulary word out loud. Then, finish reading the sentence out loud to your students.

Directions: Read the vocabulary word and definition below. Then answer questions 9 and 10.

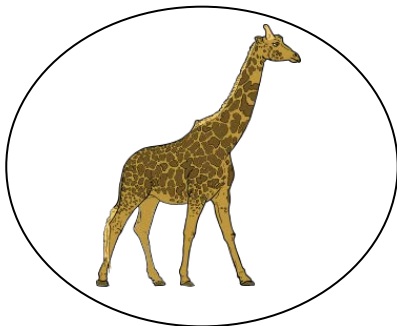
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 - An owl is a nocturnal animal, so you hear it hooting more at night.
 - Nocturnal animals like to sleep during the day and move around at night.
 - If an animal is nocturnal, it may be hard to find during the day.
 - Animals that are nocturnal hunt for food at night.

Step 4: Check for student understanding

To the Teacher: This step can be completed as a whole class activity or as an independent practice.

10. Which animal is NOT nocturnal?



Suggested Additional Vocabulary: mammal