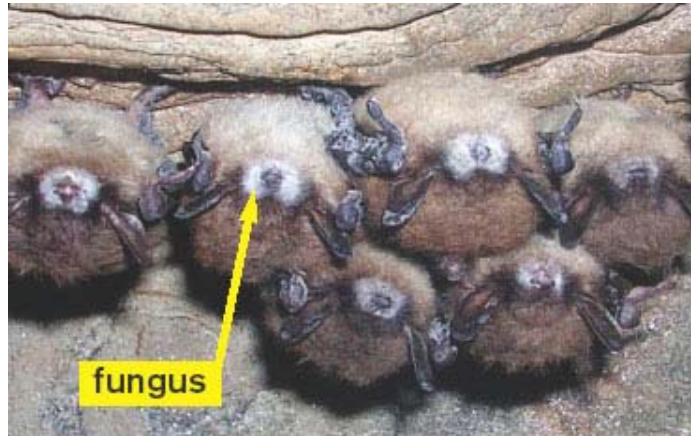


A Bat Mystery

Some bats are in trouble. They have an illness. Millions of bats have died from it.



AP Images

The bats get a white **fungus** on their noses, ears, and wings. Fungi are types of organisms that include molds, mildews, and yeasts. Some fungi can make animals sick.

Scientists do not know why the bats are dying. They have been trying to solve the mystery for more than a year.

"We're trying to find out what this fungus is and where it came from," says scientist Susi von Oettingen. She works for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "We're trying to figure out if we can make the bats healthy again," she says.



AP Images

Scientists want to find out why bats are dying.

Name: _____ Date: _____

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

1. According to the text, why are millions of bats dying?

2. Some bats get a white fungus on their noses, ears, and wings. What are fungi?

3. What have scientists been trying to do?

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.

For more than a year, scientists have been trying to figure out why the bats are dying so that they can help make the bats healthy again.

Who? scientists

5. What have scientist been trying to do?

6. When?

7. Why?

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

Millions of bats have died _____ they had an illness.

- A but
- B because
- C so

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

Vocabulary Word: **mystery** (mys · ter · y): something that is difficult to understand or explain.

9. Read the sentences below and underline all forms of the word **mystery**.
- a. I love to read mystery stories that involve a crime that is hard to solve.
 - b. The boy did not understand why rain turned to snow in the winter so the process was a mystery to him.
 - c. The family tried to solve the mystery of their missing dog.
 - d. The police tried to solve the mystery of the missing car by looking for clues.
 - e. The mystery all started when over half of the students in the school became sick at the same time and no one knew why.

10. Use the word "mystery" in a sentence.
