



“Go Batty!” Discovering Bats on Long Island

Look up in the sky. It’s a bird, it’s a plane ... no it’s a BAT!
BATS are one of the most misunderstood creatures in the world.

Find out more about this interesting and unique animal.

Are they birds, flying mice or mammals?

Learn more about the BATS living in New York.

Discover what factors are threatening them.

Why they are important to humans?

What information is fact or fiction?

Age Level Requirements:

Girl Scout	Discover	Connect	Take Action
Daisy	2 Activities	1 Activity	1 Activity
Brownie	3 Activities	1 Activity	1 Activity
Junior	3 Activities	2 Activities	1 Activity
Cadette, Senior and Ambassador	3 Activities	3 Activities	2 Activities



Girl Scouts®

GIRL SCOUTS OF NASSAU COUNTY, INC

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DISCOVER:

1. View the DVD “The Secret World of Bats”* (a live action DVD about the mysterious world of BATS) or another DVD/program about BATS.
2. Read a BAT-themed book.
Suggested books include:
*Stellaluna**; *Bat Loves the Night: Read and Wonder*; *Zippering, Zapping, Zooming Bats*; *Silverwing*; *Bat Summer*; *Bats of the World**; *Stokes Beginner’s Guide to Bats**; *Amazing Bats*; *Bats!* (Time for Kids Series)*.
3. Find out all you can about BATS. Go to your local library or visit any of the websites listed on the resource page to find out the following information:
 - What BATS live in our area?
 - What are some of the different kinds of BATS?
 - Are BATS in the bird family?
 - How do BATS navigate?
 - What do BATS eat?
 - How do BATS care for their young?
 - How are BATS helpful?
 - Describe BAT anatomy.
4. Listen to a CD of nighttime sounds and learn to identify different species of animals by the noises they make at night. Use the CD/book *A Guide to Night Sounds: The Nighttime Sounds of 60 Mammals, Birds, Amphibians, and Insects** or other resource about night sounds.
5. Learn about BAT safety. What should you do if you come across a BAT? What should you do if you have been in contact with a BAT? How do you find a BAT rehabilitator? Research information on www.batworld.org.

*Resources available in Girl Scouts of Nassau County (GSNC) Resource Room “Go Batty!” Program Resource Box.



CONNECT:

1. What is echolocation? Play the Echolocation Game in packet or come up with your own game about echolocation and play it.
2. Create a poem about BATS using the information you've learned and read it to your Troop or other group. Draw a picture to go with your poem.
3. As a Troop, make up a play about BATS and put on the play for another troop or group to teach them about BATS.
4. Build a model or craft of a BAT. Or do an activity such as a word search, crossword or other puzzle.*
5. Find out about field equipment such as BAT detectors, mist nets and radio telemetry, used for studying BATS.
6. Should we be afraid of BATS? What are some myths and misconceptions about BATS?
7. Learn more about vampire BATS. Where do they live and what animals provide blood for them?
8. Learn more about nocturnal animals. Select one and learn how it has adapted to living in the night as opposed to diurnal animals.
9. Learn how nocturnal animals, like BATS, use echolocation to find food and navigate the night sky. Discuss how some animals learn to depend on other senses (rather than sight) for nocturnal life.

*Resources available in GSNC Resource Room "Go Batty!" Program Resource Box.



TAKE ACTION:

1. Make a poster and display about BATS and put it up in a school, library or other place where people can learn more about BATS.
2. Build a BAT house and find out what is the best location for BAT houses.
3. Learn more about BATS by visiting a park or other site and participate in a BAT program. See Resource Guide for suggested site visits.
4. Find a BAT or wildlife rehabilitator in the New York area. Ask them what they do to take care of BATS? Why do they rehabilitate BATS? What do you have to do to be a BAT or wildlife rehabilitator? See www.batworld.com
5. Find out what diseases BATS can carry. How can we stay safe? What about diseases that are affecting BAT populations, like White Nose Syndrome? Which populations are affected by this disease? What can be done to protect BAT populations from this disease? What other factors are affecting BAT populations?
6. Find out about organizations and efforts for BAT conservation. Look up information about Bat Conservation International, a non-profit organization dedicated to BAT conservation, research, and education. Their phone number is 1-800-538-2287. <http://www.batcon.org>

*Resources available in GSNC Resource Room "Go Batty!" Program Resource Box.

(Program adapted from Girl Scouts of Central Texas - Troops 1210 & 1107 of the Lone Star Council Program)



RESOURCE GUIDE

Books/Magazines:*

New York State Conservationist, BATS, February , 2008

Stellaluna by Janell Canon

Bats by Gail Gibbons

Bats of the World by Gary L. Graham & Fiona A. Reid

Stokes Beginner's Guide to Bats by Kim Williams, Rob Mies, Lillian Stokes

A Guide to Night Sounds: The Nighttime Sounds of 60 Mammals, Birds, Amphibians and Insects
by Lang Elliott (book and cd)

Bats! (Time for Kids Series) by the Editors of TIME for Kids with Nicole Iorio

The Bat Poet by Randall Jarrell

A Simple Guide to Bat House Designs distributed by The Organization for Bat Conservation.

Websites:

Organization for Bat Conservation, www.batconservation.org

Bat Conservation International, www.batcon.org

Bat World Sanctuary, www.batworld.org

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, www.fws.gov/northeast

Bats4Kids, www.bats4kids.org

Crafts:

About.com Family Crafts, <http://familycrafts.about.com>

The Kids Wildlife Book, page 13 available in the GSNC Resource Room

DLTK Growing Together, www.dltk-kids.com

Suggested site visits:

Connetquot River State Park in Oakdale, NY, (631) 581-1005

Tackapausha Museum and Preserve in Seaford, NY, (516) 571-7443

Central Park with the New York City Audubon Society, www.nycaudubon.org

American Museum of Natural History in New York City, www.amnh.org

*Resources available in GSNC Resource Room "Go Batty!" Program Resource Box.



ECHOLOCATION GAME

Although BATS do have good vision, this game will illustrate how they use sound to locate an object.

What you'll need:

- A few blind folds

- A group of people

- A space to move around in that doesn't have any obstacles.

OBJECT OF THE GAME: To find the person the sound came from.

HOW TO PLAY:

Put a blind fold on one person (the BAT) and place them in one part of the area you will play in.

Turn them around a few times.

Have the rest of the group (insects to be eaten) pick a spot in the area and stand still. Quietly select a player to be the insect who will echo the BAT's sound.

Start the game by having the BAT make a sound (any sound).

Then the previously selected person (insect) will echo the same sound as best they can.

Have the blind folded person (bat) try to locate where the sound came from and find the person (insect).

The BAT can continue to make the sound. Every time the BAT makes the sound the other player should echo the BAT's sound.

Once located, the person making the sound takes a turn at being blind folded, listening and locating the sound of a new player.

TO MAKE THE GAME MORE CHALLENGING:

Have two or three blind folded people (BATS) make three different sounds one at a time. Three different players will echo an assigned BAT. For example: Bat 1 makes a sound, Insect 1 echoes the sound; Bat 2 makes a sound, Insect 2 echoes sound; Bat 3 makes a sound, Insect 3 echoes sound. After the BATS and insects sounds have been established, they can all make the sounds together as BATS would flying at night. When the BAT has located their insect, the insect can take its' turn being the BAT. You can add as many BATS as you want to continue the insect feeding frenzy.



“GO BATTY!” PATCH PROGRAM RESOURCE BOX

The “Go Batty!” Discovering Bats on Long Island Patch Program Resource Box is available in the GSNC Resource Room and contains:

Program Description

Description of Echolocation Game

Articles on White Nose Syndrome and Owls

“The Secret World of Bats” DVD

Books: *Stellaluna* by Janell Canon; *Bats* by Gail Gibbons; *Bats of the World* by Gary L. Graham and Fiona A. Reid; *Stokes Beginner’s Guide to Bats* by Kim Williams, Rob Mies and Lillian Stokes; *Bats!* (Time for Kids Series) by the Editors of TIME for Kids with Nicole Iorio; *The Bat Poet* by Randall Jarrell.

A Guide to Night Sounds: The Nighttime Sounds of 60 Mammals, Birds, Amphibians and Insects (book and cd)

A Simple Guide to Bat House Designs by The Organization for Bat Conservation.

Magazine: *NYS Conservationist*, February, 2008

List of websites to research BATS:

www.batcon.org

www.batconservation.org

www.batworld.org

www.fws.gov/northeast

www.bats4kids.org

Bat poems

Bat craft ideas and games

Red Bat plush toy

Bats: Fact or Fiction game

Take a Look at a Bat - mini-poster

