

EXPLORING MERIT BADGES

Bat Study

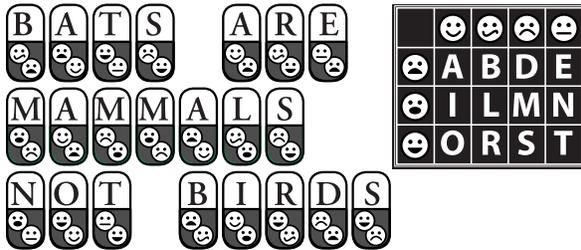


PURPOSE

To help Junior Cadets learn about a fascinating and useful creature's important place in God's creation.

LEARNING

- Bats don't seem to be very much like other creatures. What type of animals are bats?



Bats are mammals with fur or hair. Bats are born live, have arms, hands, and feet, and they are warm-blooded. Sometimes people think otherwise, because bats are the only mammals capable of sustained flight. But they are not birds which have feathers, wings but not hands, and are hatched from eggs.

- Find out how many different kinds of bats there are. How many did you find?

There are about 1,240 different species of bats worldwide. This represents about 20% of all classified mammal species.

- Mark if each fact is true or false.

True	False	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	About 70% of bats eat insects. The Little Brown Bat can eat up to 1200 night flying insects in just one hour!
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bats pollinate flowers. Some bats like to eat nectar and they pollinate flowers while eating.

True	False	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bats are blind, so sometimes they get tangled in people's hair. Actually bats can see and are much too smart to fly into people. Bats actually see better in the dark.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bats spread fruit seeds by dropping them when they fly. This is the only way the seeds of some tropical plants are spread. Some bats eat fruit. As they fly, they drop the seeds. Some of those seeds grow into new trees. Many tropical plants depend entirely on bats for seed distribution.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bats are dirty and all of them have rabies. Bats are actually very clean and groom themselves regularly. Bats can get rabies, just like all mammals, but very few actually do.

- Name one type of bat that lives in your area that you would like to learn about.

You will have to ask the Junior Cadet where he got his information and follow up on this yourself.

- Tell about the bat you chose.
 - How big does it get?
 - What does it eat?
 - What kind of home does it like to live in (tree, cave, etc.)?
 - Draw a picture of the bat you chose.

You will have to ask the Junior Cadet where he got his information and follow up on this yourself.

- Draw a picture of the bat you chose.

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DOING

With your parents or other adult, go to a zoo or another place where you can find the bat you chose. It might even be your own back yard. Watch it fly, and describe it to your counselor. How do the wings move? Does the bat fly in a straight line, circles, or ovals?

Self-explanatory. If your Junior Cadet is unable to find someone to help him observe the bat he chose in "real time," watching an on-line video would be an acceptable alternative. There is a lot of information on the Internet about bats. A google search will give you many different websites to check, but this is one we found that seemed just right for most of this badge and the age of your Junior Cadets: <http://bats4kids.org/>