



Bats

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What are Bats?

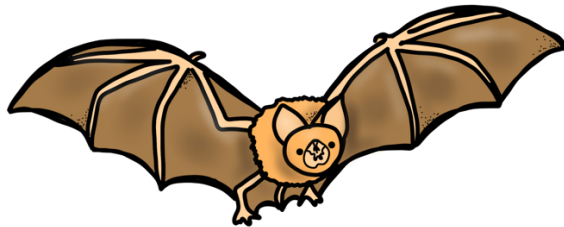
Did you know that bats are the only mammals that truly fly? Many people mistake bats for birds, but they are not birds! They are warm blooded, have live babies, and even have a little fur like you and me. There are over 1,000 different **species** of bats around the world. Some are as small as the tip of your finger and some have a wingspan as wide as a human is tall!



Different Types of Bats



Free Tailed



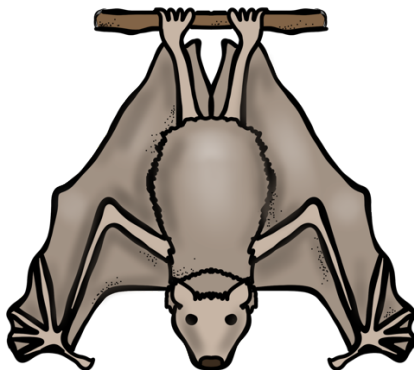
Leaf Nosed Bat



Bumblebee



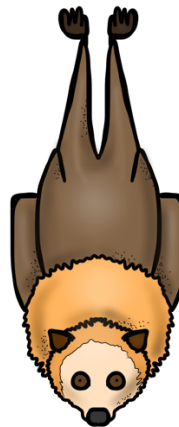
Spotted Bat



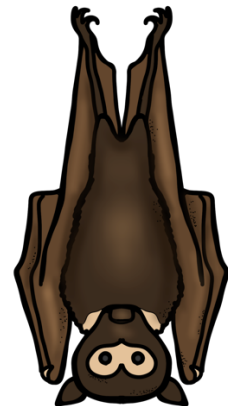
**Gray Headed
Flying Fox**



**Black Flying
Fox**



**Little Red
Nosed Flying
Fox**



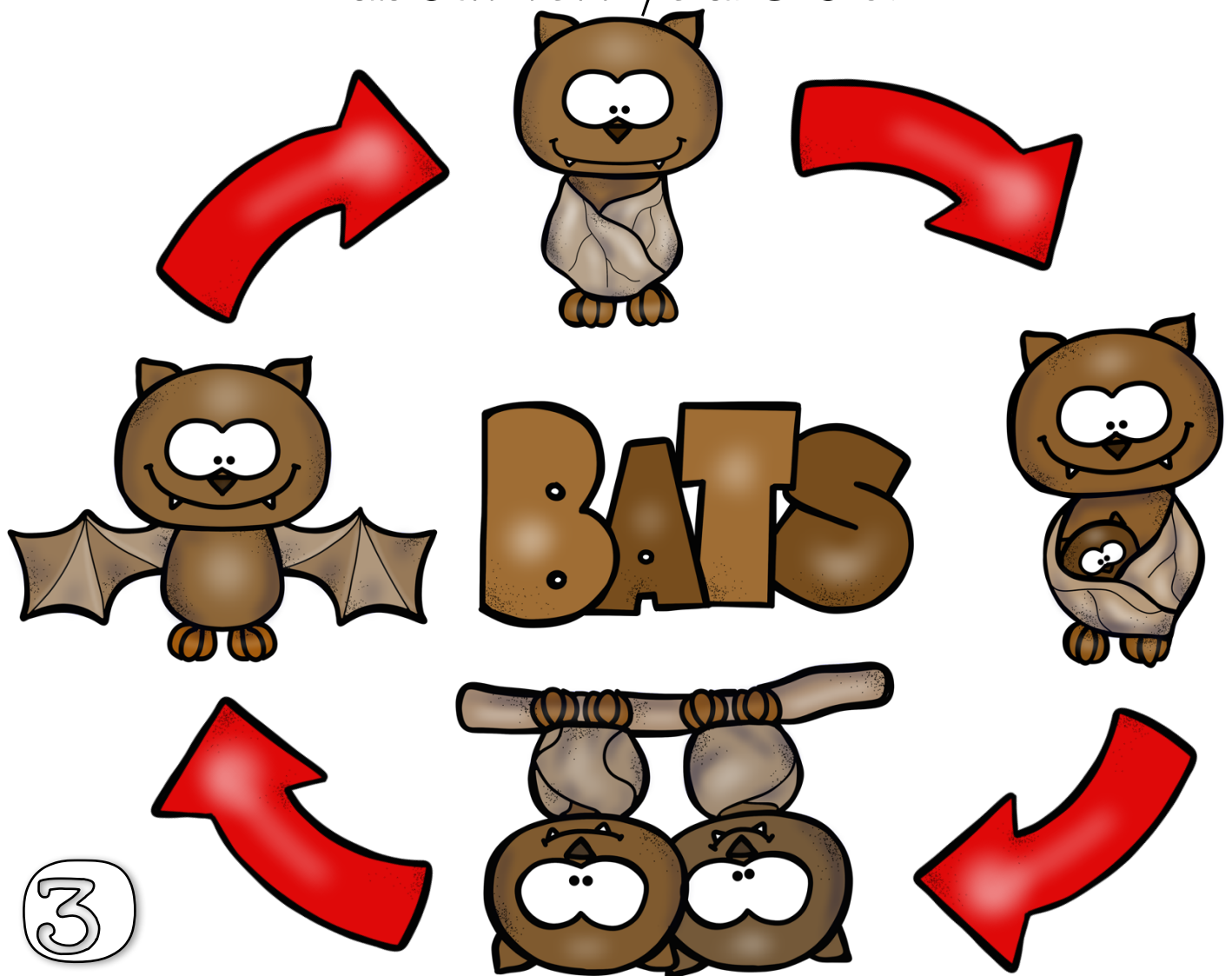
**Spectacled
Flying Bat**



Spear Nosed Bat

The Bat Life Cycle

A mother bat gives birth to a single baby bat at a time. The baby bat is known as a pup. The pup will drink the mother's milk for about six weeks. Within two months he or she will begin to fly and find food. A bat is considered an adult when they are around one year old. Some bats can live to be about ten years old.



Yummy!

The thousands of species of bats eat all types of food. One group of bats mostly eats small flying bugs like mosquitoes, moths and others. The other group eats ripe fruit. There are other bats that eat different food such as frogs, fish, scorpions, and plant nectar.



Where they Live

Bats can be found on every continent in the world except for Antarctica. They do not like areas that are too hot or too cold. A bat's home is called a **roost**. They can make almost any dark place their home such as a cave, a tree, under a bridge, and an attic. Bats live together in groups called **colonies**, which contain 100 to 1,000 bats.



Echolocation

Bats are nocturnal. This means that they are active at night. Bats also have a special sense called echolocation. When bats are hunting at night, they send out high pitched sounds and wait to see how long it takes for the sound to bounce off their prey.

This skill is so special that bats can tell which objects are food and which objects they need to avoid when they are flying!

Humans cannot hear the high pitched noises.



Fun Facts

- Contrary to **myth** bats are not blind at all. They have excellent **vision**.
- Many bat species in the United States are **endangered**.
- Some bats migrate south for the winter.
- The largest bat colony in the world lives in a cave in Texas and has about 20 million bats.



Glossary



- colonies- a group of bats that live together- usually about 100-1,000 bats (p 6)
- endangered- an animal that is at risk of dying out (p 7)
- myth- a story that many people believe (p 7)
- roost- the home of a group of bats (p 6)
- species- different kinds of an animal (p 1)
- vision- how something sees