

Bat Week Resources

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If you create anything at your library for Bat Week that you want to share, please email it to Amelea Kim at akim@mt.gov, and it will be included in the toolkit!

What is Bat Week?

From website: “Bat Week is an annual celebration of the role of bats in nature. Bat Week is organized by a team of representatives from across the United States and Canada from conservation organizations and government departments.”

1. Bat Information Websites

Bat Week

[Bat Week Website URL](#)

You can go on the website and find a variety of resources such as:

- Many educational and fun videos about bats, their habitat, and how they help the world
- Great facts and information about bats that you can easily learn and share
- Past Bat Week events and themes
- Suggestions for events and activities for Bat Week
- Social Media Toolkit with great suggestions for captions and posts to engage your community with Bat Week

Bat Conservation International

[Bat Conservation International Website URL](#)

Available Resources:

- Many awesome bat facts under the “Why Bats?” section
- Current news and updates about bats in “Resources -> Media and Education -> Newsroom”
- Species Profile: Look up specific bats, see pictures, as well as where their approximate range is
- Coloring Pages: In the “Resources -> Kidz Cave” there are tons of craft ideas, coloring pages, and fun bat-themed activities to do!

Bat Conservation Trust

[Bat Conservation Website Link](#)

Available Resources:

- Lots of bat facts under “About Bats”

- Suggestions for Bat events, and how to connect your community to seeing bats in action, either through video or live
- News stories about bats available, from more serious topics to the lighthearted

Smithsonian Institute – Bat Facts

Great summary about bats, with lots of cool facts and details about them. There is also a great collection of videos, articles, artwork, and media that feature bats on the Smithsonian website.

[Smithsonian Institute Bat Facts Webpage](#)

[Smithsonian Institute Spotlight on Bats Webpage](#)

2. Presentations from FWP Wildlife Biologists Across Montana and PowerPoint

If you are interested in having a qualified biologist come and talk about bats at your library, here is a list of people who might be available to give presentations.

Additionally, all the names highlighted in yellow are Information and Education Specialists. You can contact them with general Fish, Wildlife, and Parks education/outreach related questions, or to see if there are other specialists in the region beyond this list who might be available for presentations.

Here are copies of Bat Presentations that FWP staff sent MSL. It is likely that the presenters will be using something similar. You can also use this for your own purposes:

[Bat Conservation in MT](#)

[Bat Week Presentation for Kids](#)

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3. Bat-Related Book Lists

Please note: Make sure you personally vet any book recommendations! Lists are helpful to find ideas for books, but you won't know for sure if a book is good for your collection/program/library unless you research it directly. Use these book lists as a starting point, but please make sure to verify and check out individual titles on your own.

[Fantastic Fun and Learning: Bat Books for Kids](#)

[ALA Batty about Bats Book List](#)

[Good Reads: Books About Bats Book List](#)

4. Bat Videos

Please remember to watch all videos ahead of time to make sure that they are best fit for your activity purposes!

Video About Bracken Cave (Largest Bat Colony in the World)

- [Bracken Cave Bat Colony Video from YouTube](#) (5 minutes)

Bat Documentaries/Informational Videos

- [Bat Roosts from FWP](#) (3 minutes)
- [5 fun facts about Bats from FWP](#) (1 minute)
- [Fun Facts about Bats](#) (8 minutes)
- Bats (2010) documentary
- [Rodrigo Medellin \(Bat man of Mexico\) Youtube Channel](#) (In Spanish):
 - a. There are English subtitles, and he has features on various species of bats, where he talks about all their features
- [Season of the Bat Short Documentary](#) (26 minutes)
- [Secrets and Mysteries of Bats Documentary](#) (48 minutes)
- [Meet the World's Biggest Bat, National Geographic](#) (3 minutes)
- [Bats hunting their prey, BBC](#) (4 minutes)
- [Bat Sounds](#) (2 minutes)
- [Bat Echolocation Sounds from the Smithsonian Channel](#) (2 minutes): This video is narrated by David Attenborough, and shows a large bat colony in a cave
- [Echolocation Video from Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History](#) (3 minutes): This video talks generally about echolocation and the different animals that use it, before focusing on the leaf-nosed bat and the adaptations it has that make it a skilled echolocator.

- [Bat Sense – Echolocation](#) (3 minutes): This video talks about echolocation, and how bats recognize the difference between insects/prey, and water. It has a great explanation of a scientific study that showed how bats can differentiate between different objects.
- [Journeying With Bats Across Mexico](#) (11 minutes)
- [Bat Echolocation Song](#) (1:20)

5. Bat Printables

Coloring Pages

[Bat Week Coloring Page 1 \(docx\)](#)

[Bat Week Coloring Page 2 \(docx\)](#)

[Bat Week Coloring Page 3 \(docx\)](#)

[Bat Week Coloring Page 4 \(docx\)](#)

[Bat Week Coloring Page 5 \(docx\)](#)

[Bat Week Coloring Page 6 \(docx\)](#)

[Save Lucy the Bat Coloring Book \(PDF\)](#)

Notes:

- Feel free to use/distribute/share these images however you see fit as they are in the public domain.
- Thank you to Victoria Troeger for drawing many of these bats to use as coloring pages!
- All the docx files are editable – you can make the images smaller, save the bat graphics to your computer to use for other purposes, or rearrange things on the page as you see fit.

6. Bat Week Marketing Materials

You can use the following files to create marketing materials to post on social media about Bat Week. You can use the templates to create your own posts, or you can use the premade Bat Facts with the text filled in already. An easy way to create social media posts is to use Canva (canva.com). With a free account, you can easily upload the templates or design elements, and then add text on top of them.

Templates

[Design 1]

[Bat Fact #1 Social Media Post](#)

[Bat Fact #2 Social Media Post](#)

[Bat Fact #3 Social Media Post](#)

[Bat Fact #4 Social Media Post](#)

[Bat Fact #5 Social Media Post](#)

These social media posts you can directly download and post on social media.

[Design 2]

[Bat Fact Social Media Template 1](#)

[Bat Fact Social Media Template 2](#)

[Bat Fact Social Media Template 3](#)

[Bat Fact Social Media Template 4](#)

[Bat Fact Social Media Template 5](#)

These social media templates are the same as the files in the section above, but they are blank so you can add in your own Bat Facts if you want.

Design Elements

[Bat Week Logo \(white background\)](#)

[Bat Week Logo \(transparent background\)](#)

[Bat Week Did you Know Image \(transparent background\)](#)

7. Bat Crafts

Here are a few bat-related crafts and activities:

Craft Ideas

- Easy Origami Bats:
 - a. [Version 1](#)
 - b. [Version 2](#)
- [Paper Bag Bat](#)
- [Egg Carton Bat Craft](#)
- [Compilation of Bat Crafts](#)
- [Bat Puppets \(more complicated\)](#)
- [Bat Goodie Bags](#)
- [Bat Finger Painting/Handprint Painting](#)
- [Thumbprint Bats](#)
- [Pom Pom Bats](#)

Activity Ideas

- [Bat Echolocation Activity](#)
- Bat Themed Early Literacy Coloring Sheet
 - [Directions](#)
 - [PDF of Coloring Sheet](#)
- [Maryland Department of Natural Resources Bat Activity List](#)
- [Project Wild: Bat Blitz Activity \(in Bat Week Celebration Trunk\)](#)
- [BC Community Bat Programs: Activities and Resources](#)

8. Building a Bat House

Here are various websites with information on how to build a bat house for our bat friends! You will need some specialized equipment to build a bat house, so it might be good to enlist the help of a carpenter/wood-worker friend if you know of one in your community.

- [Woodworkers' Guild of America: Build a Bat House](#)
- [Bat Conservation International: Bat Gardens and Houses](#)
- [National Wildlife Federation: Build a Bat House](#)

9. Montana Field Guides

The Montana Natural Heritage Program has field guides for animals, plants, and nature native to Montana. Here is the field guide PDF with all of the Montana bats included. You can pick and choose which ones to print, or you can browse online to see which bats are in your library's area.

[Montana Field Guide on Bats](#)

The Field Guide is particularly great for pictures of each of the bat species, and specific maps for where each bat lives and travels. Here are specific links to each of the bats that live in Montana:

- [Big Brown Bat](#)
- [California Myotis](#)
- [Eastern Red Bat \(Species of Concern\)](#)
- [Fringed Myotis \(Species of Concern\)](#)
- [Hoary Bat \(Species of Concern\)](#)
- [Little Brown Myotis \(Species of Concern\)](#)
- [Long-eared Myotis](#)

- [Long-legged Myotis](#)
- [Northern Myotis \(Species of Concern\)](#)
- [Pallid Bat \(Species of Concern\)](#)
- [Silver-haired Bat \(Potential Species of Concern\)](#)
- [Spotted Bat \(Species of Concern\)](#)
- [Townsend's Big-eared Bat \(Species of Concern\)](#)
- [Western Small-footed Myotis](#)
- [Yuma Myotis \(Potential Species of Concern\)](#)

10. Bat Display

Here are some basic bat facts and graphics for you to make a bat bulletin board, or a bat display somewhere in your library.

2022 Update Coming Soon!

11. Quick list of Bat Facts

Here is a list of quick bat facts, all in one place, taken from bats.org.uk, batcon.org, and batweek.org:

1. There are more than 1,300 species of bats in the world
2. A bat's wing structure is actually a modified hand, with the finger bones elongated to support the thin skin membrane that creates the wing.
3. Bats use echolocation to fly and locate prey
4. Bats are important for pest and insect control, and save farmers billions of dollars when it comes to reducing crop damage and pesticide use for their crops.
5. Not all bats eat insects - some bats are critical pollinators for a wide variety of plants! They help pollinate by drinking nectar, and transfer pollen between plants with their fur
6. Some flowers have evolved to produce a musty/rotten smell that attracts bats.
7. The agave plant relies completely on bats to pollinate its flowers and reproduce!
8. The anoura fistulata is a nectar-feeding bat from South America - and it has the longest tongue proportionally of all mammals! Its body is about the size of a mouse, but its tongue is about 3.5 inches (8.5 centimeters), making it about 150% of its body length.
9. In most bat species, the females only give birth to one pup per year.
10. Only three of the 1,300+ bat species feed on blood, and they all live in Latin America.
11. White-nose Syndrome is a bat disease caused by a fungus that attacks and kills hibernating bats. Bat biologists are trying to fight this disease all across the US and Canada.
12. Areas along the equator have the greatest bat diversity - Indonesia alone has at least 219 bat species!
13. Bats are mammals that belong to the order Chiroptera

14. Bats are the only mammals naturally capable of true and sustained flight
15. The word for bat in Spanish is "murcielago"
16. The largest bat colony roosts in Bracken Cave, Texas. Over 15 million Mexican free-tailed bats roost in that cave!
17. The place a bat lives is called a "roost". Different kinds of bats prefer different kinds of roosts!
18. The bumblebee bat is not only the smallest bat in the world, but also the smallest mammal in existence!
19. Some male bats sing similar to songbirds! They also sing for the same reasons - to defend territories and attract mates.

12. Bat Bingo Card Template

Using the bat facts from Resource #11, you can create a quick and easy Bat Bingo Game using this Canva template! This is a 5 x 7" bingo card, but you can change the dimensions in Canva if needed.

[Bat Bingo Card Template](#)