



Teaching About Bats

Bats are among the world's most fascinating, beneficial, and likable animals, yet people often fear and misunderstand them. They are the only mammals capable of true flight. There are over 1,300 different species of bats in the world – nine different species can be found in Connecticut, and all but one of them (the big brown bat) are on Connecticut's List of Endangered, Threatened and Special Concern Species.



*Big brown bats
Photo by Paul Fusco*

Learn About Bats:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Wildlife/Fact-Sheets/Bats>

Younger Children:

Have each student develop a list of bat facts or bat myths or make a class list with each student providing one statement.

Learn about hibernation. Which animals are true hibernators?

Watch this fun story by Maureen Heidtmann on bats

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=401292104188509>

Have students walk in their backyard and try Bat Bingo https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/wildlife/pdf_files/outreach/Bat-Bingo.pdf

Learn about echolocation while playing the Bat and Moth Game https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/wildlife/pdf_files/outreach/Bat-Moth-Game.pdf

Color a bat and find fun facts on this kid's page https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/wildlife/pdf_files/outreach/Kids-Pages/BatKidsPage.pdf

Older Children:

Create a range map for a Connecticut bat. Use this map of the United States from Education Place: http://www.eduplace.com/ss/maps/pdf/us_nl.pdf. Connecticut's 9 bat species include: big brown bat, little brown bat, northern long-eared bat, Eastern small-footed bat, Indiana bat, tri-colored bat, silver-haired bat, Eastern red bat, and hoary bat.

Develop a list of the benefits of bats (insect control, pollination, seed dispersal).

Research wildlife diseases, including rabies and white-nosed syndrome. List 5 facts and myths about each.

Learn about wildlife monitoring by viewing this video

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=319537272813895&ref=watch> [permalink](#) of a livestream Bat Monitoring and Acoustic Survey in Connecticut.

Have students conduct research and list three things the CT DEEP Wildlife Division is doing to help bats! <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Wildlife/Learn-About-Wildlife/Bats-in-Connecticut>

Find a recipe made possible by bats! (Ingredients include bananas, guava, dates, avocado, etc.) Start here: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/wildlife/pdf_files/outreach/Bat-Appreciation-Days-Recipes.pdf AND <https://batweek.org/wp-content/uploads/BatCelebrationCookBook-UPDATED2018.pdf>.

Things students can do to help bats:

- 1) Build a Bat House <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Wildlife/Fact-Sheets/Bats#house>
- 2) Bats found outdoors from mid-November through mid-March should be reported to the Wildlife Division. While the characteristic white fuzzy fungal growth caused by white-nose syndrome may not be readily visible on a bat's nose, bats seen flying during the day or clinging to the outside of a building during winter are a sign that white-nose syndrome may be at work. Sighting details, including the date, location, what you observed, and digital photos if possible, may be submitted by email to the DEEP Wildlife Division at deep.batprogram@ct.gov or by calling 860-424-3011.
- 3) Educate others about the importance of bats in a healthy environment!

Select Children's Books

Bash, B. 1993. *Shadows of the Night: The Hidden World of the Little Brown Bat*, Sierra Club Books for Children, San Francisco, 30 pp.

Cannon, Jannell. 1993. *Stellaluna*. Harcourt, Brace, & Company, New York, 48 pp.

Krulik, N. 1996. *The Magic School Bus Going Batty: A Book About Bats*. Scholastic, New York, 32 pp.

Maestro, B. 1994. *Night Flyers*. Scholastic, New York, 32 pp.

Stuart, Dee. 1994. *Bats: Mysterious Flyers of the Night*. Carolrhoda Books, Inc., Minneapolis, 45 pp.

More Resources

Bat Conservation International <https://www.batcon.org/>

National Park Service <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/bats/all-about-bats.htm>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service <https://www.fws.gov/>

Prepared by CT DEEP Wildlife Division Outreach Program