





Bats of British Columbia

Did You Know?

-  There are 15 different bat species in British Columbia!
-  Contrary to popular belief, bats aren't actually blind! Though they do hunt primarily through echolocation
-  Not all bats drink blood!! Though vampire bats are commonly thought of when people think of bats there are only a few species that drink blood. Most bats eat either fruit or insects (or both!)



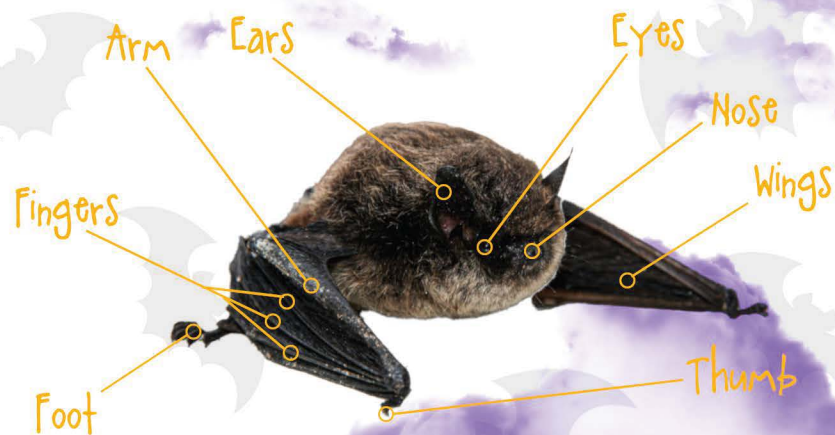
Echolocation

-  Echolocation is a cool technique bats use to navigate and hunt in complete darkness. Bats make high pitched clicking noises and listen very carefully. When the sound hits something, like a tree or insect, it bounces off its and returns to the bat. Thanks to the amazing hearing of the bat, it can tell what the sound reflected off and where it is! Bats click and squeek repeatedly to keep sending out soundwaves and get a great picture of whats around them.

The Bats of BC

- Spotted Bat
- Pallid Bat
- Townsend's Big-eared Bat
- Hoary Bat
- Eastern Red Bat
- Silver-haired Bat
- Big Brown Bat
- Yuma Myotis
- Californian Myotis
- Western Small-footed Myotis
- Northern Myotis
- Long-legged Myotis
- Little Brown Myotis
- Fringed Myotis
- Long-eared Myotis

BAT-natomy



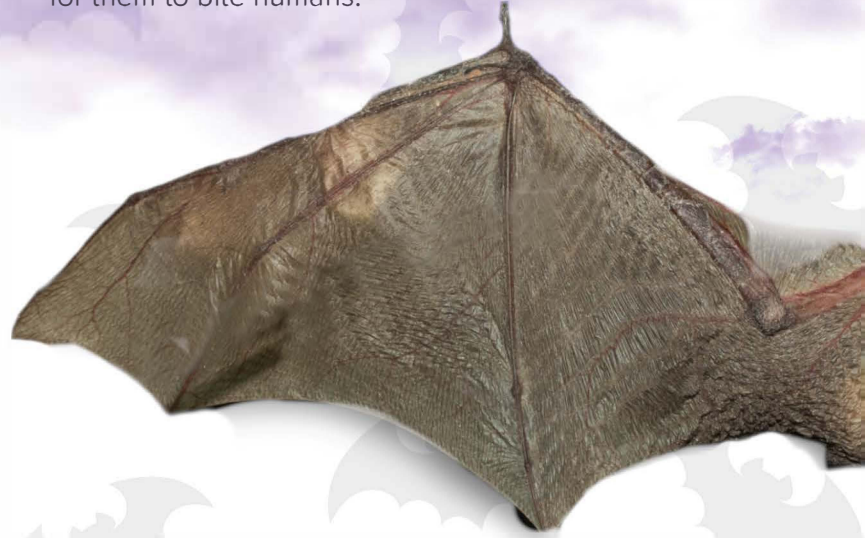


Real Life Vampires

Though most bats eat fruit and insects there are some that eat only blood! Native primarily to central and south America these vampire bats drink blood from large mammals like cows, pigs, and horses to get all the nourishment they need. Though vampire bats drink blood it is very uncommon for them to bite humans.

Bat Wing Structure

Bat wings have a pretty amazing structure. Unlike birds whose feathers line along the arm structures, the webbing that makes up a bat's wings is actually webbing between their fingers (or at least their finger bones). If you look at your hand and the bone structure of a bat's wings you can actually see some incredible similarities.



Little brown bat with white-nose syndrome

Threats to Bat Populations

Though bats tend to have very few natural enemies, human activities pose a real threat to bat populations in BC. Habitat loss caused by human development and climate change are driving factors for the drop in bat numbers. Additionally a disease caused by a fungus called **White-nose syndrome** has caused a dramatic decrease in bat populations in Canada and the United States.

How You Can Help Bats!

There's lots you can do to be a bat superhero! For starters you can continue to learn about the different bat species and threats to bat populations in your area. You can also help out by keeping an eye out for bats with white-nose syndrome and reporting sightings to the provincial white-nose monitoring program. Lastly if you're feeling crafty you can create and monitor a bat box.

