



Bat Week Bat Facts for Trick or Treaters in BC

Directions: ✂-----

Print out single-sided, black and white -> cut out -> attach to candy for trick or treaters.
www.bcbats.ca



Bats are the only true flying mammal. Bats give birth to live young that suckle milk from their mom. Pups learn to fly when they are 3 to 6 weeks old. www.bcbats.ca.

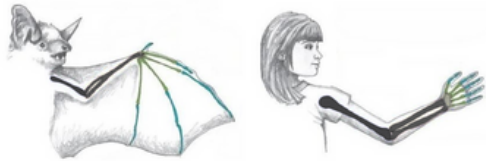
Bats are mammals of the **order Chiroptera** which literally means **"hand-wing"**. With their forelimbs adapted as wings, they are **the only mammals capable of true and sustained flight**. Flying squirrels only glide. Bats are not rodents.
www.bcbats.ca.

Bats are not rodents but long-lived mammals that reproduce slowly. Most BC bats give birth to just one pup per female per summer.
www.bcbats.ca.

A nursing mother bat can eat more than her own weight in insects in a night just to keep up with the energy demand!
www.bcbats.ca



BC bats can live a long time. In Canada there are records of **Big Brown Bats** surviving to at least **19 years** and **Little Brown Myotis** to more than **39 years!**



Most BC bats give birth to just one pup per female per year. Bat pups are huge compared to their moms. At birth, they range from 25-30% of their mother's weight. Just imagine a 150 lb woman giving birth to a 50 lb baby!

BC bats only use caves and mines in winter for hibernation. In summer, bats roost in big mature trees, large dead trees, crevices in rock cliffs, mudstone areas of riverbanks, buildings like barns, log houses, sheds, and a few use bat boxes.

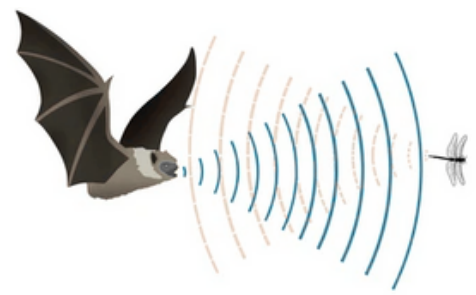
Bat maternity roosts are composed of mothers and their pups. The males do not help with the rearing of the young. www.bcbats.ca

Echolocation: Bats use their ears to navigate the night skies with echolocation. Just as the word implies, they locate objects in space by listening for rebounding echoes of their very loud, high frequency calls.
www.bcbats.ca

All bats in BC eat insects (and other arthropods). Bats consume large amounts of nocturnal flying insects that can include mosquitoes, forest pests, and agricultural pests. www.bcbats.ca.

Because bats are major consumers of nocturnal flying insects, they are important in the food chain and as part of our ecosystems. www.bcbats.ca

There are no fruit bats in Canada. All the bats that live in Canada are insect eaters. www.bcbats.ca.



All bats in BC are protected under the BC Wildlife Act that protects bats from being hunted, captured, possessed, killed, transported, and harassed.

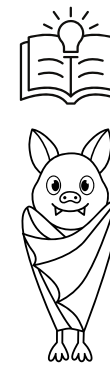


Be Bat Friendly: Bats love the dark. Turn off outdoor lights at night, or use motion sensors so they are not on all the time.



www.bcbats.ca.

Be Bat Friendly:
Learn about bats and tell your friends and family about them.



Be Bat Friendly: Plant trees next to a water body (Lakes, rivers, creeks, wetlands, ponds).
www.bcbats.ca.



Be Bat Friendly: Plant flowers that stay open through the night and attract nocturnal insects that bats will eat.
www.bcbats.ca



Be Bat Friendly: Build a pond that is at least 3m in diameter. Bats drink while flying so they need large, open ponds.
www.bcbats.ca



Be Bat Friendly: Bats eat insects. Eat fruits and vegetables grown in farms that don't use pesticides. Go organic! www.bcbats.ca



Be Bat Friendly: Help restore wetlands, riparian areas along waterways, and other natural areas. These are important foraging spaces for bats. www.bcbats.ca.

Be Bat Friendly: If you have a backyard pool or artificial pond, make sure you provide grippy escape ramps for bats and other creatures that sometimes fall in.

Be Bat Friendly: Keep damaged and dead trees as wildlife trees when safe to do so. They are important for bats to roost in.
www.bcbats.ca



Be Bat Friendly: Save tall, large trees. Big trees are important for bats to roost in.



Be Bat Friendly: Do not use sticky tape or fly traps where bats could encounter them. They'll get stuck to them like flies do.
www.bcbats.ca

Be Bat Friendly: Store empty buckets and bins upside down to avoid entrapment of bats. www.bcbats.ca.

Be Bat Friendly: Keep cats indoors as they are a main predator of urban and rural bats. Use a catio!



BC has the highest diversity of bats - 15 species of bats call this province home! How many species can you name?
www.bcbats.ca.

