Name: _____ Date: _____

How Bats Find Food in the Dark

Circle group

Bats hunt at night. It is too dark to see well. So bats use sound to find food. This is called echolocation.

A bat squeaks as it flies. The squeak is very high. People can not hear most of them. The sound hits a moth. Then it bounces back to the bat. That is an echo.

The bat hears the echo. It knows how far the moth is. It knows which way the moth is going. The bat grabs the tiny bug fast.

A bat can eat hundreds of bugs in one night. That helps people. There are fewer pests. Bats are not blind. But their ears do a lot of work.

Questions

1. When do bats hunt?

_____

_____

2. What do bats use sound to do?

_____

_____

3. What does the sound do after it hits a moth?

_____

_____

4. What does the bat know from the echo?

_____

_____

5. How do bats help people?

_____

_____

6. Why does a bat use sound at night?

_____

_____

Words to know

echolocation: using sound and its echo to find things
echo: a sound that bounces back to you
pests: small animals that bother people or harm crops
hunt: to look for and catch food

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

How Bats Find Food in the Dark

Triangle group

Bats hunt at night, when it is too dark to see well. They use sound to find their food instead. This is called echolocation.

A bat makes a high squeak as it flies. Most of these squeaks are too high for people to hear. The sound travels out and hits an object, such as a moth. Then the sound bounces back to the bat as an echo.

The bat listens to the echo. It can tell how far away the moth is and which way the moth is flying. The bat can catch a tiny insect in the dark in just a moment.

Some bats eat hundreds of insects in one night. That helps people, because it keeps the number of pests down. Bats are not blind, but their ears do a lot of the work.

Questions

1. When do bats hunt?

_____

_____

2. What is it called when a bat uses sound to find food?

_____

_____

3. What happens to the sound after it hits a moth?

_____

_____

4. What can the bat learn from the echo?

_____

_____

5. Why do bats help people?

_____

_____

6. Why is echolocation useful for a hunter in the dark?

_____

_____

Words to know

echolocation: using sound and its echo to find things
echo: a sound that bounces back to you
insect: a small animal with six legs, such as a moth
pests: small animals that bother people or harm crops
hunt: to look for and catch food

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

How Bats Find Food in the Dark

Square group

Bats hunt at night, when it is far too dark for most animals to see well. Instead of relying on their eyes, they use sound to locate their food, a skill known as echolocation.

As a bat flies, it produces a series of high squeaks, and most of these are pitched too high for people to hear. The sound travels outward until it strikes an object, such as a moth, and then it bounces back to the bat as an echo.

By listening carefully to the echo, the bat can judge how far away the moth is and which direction it is flying. Even a tiny insect can be caught in an instant, despite the darkness.

Some bats eat hundreds of insects in a single night, which benefits people because it keeps the number of pests under control. Bats are not blind, but their ears do a remarkable amount of the work.

Questions

1. During which part of the day do bats hunt?

_____

_____

2. What is the name of the skill bats use to locate food with sound?

_____

_____

3. What happens to the sound once it strikes an object such as a moth?

_____

_____

4. What information can a bat judge from listening to the echo?

_____

_____

5. In what way do bats benefit people?

_____

_____

6. Why is echolocation such a useful skill for a hunter in the dark?

_____

_____

Words to know

echolocation: using sound and its echo to find things
echo: a sound that bounces back to you
insect: a small animal with six legs, such as a moth
pests: small animals that bother people or harm crops
hunt: to look for and catch food

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: How Bats Find Food in the Dark

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: How Bats Find Food in the Dark

Easier · 112 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.1

1. At night.
2. Find food. This is called echolocation.
3. It bounces back to the bat. That is an echo.
4. How far the moth is and which way it is going.
5. They eat bugs, so there are fewer pests.
6. It is too dark to see well, so sound helps it find food.

Triangle: How Bats Find Food in the Dark

This passage · 136 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.3

1. At night.
2. Echolocation.
3. It bounces back to the bat as an echo.
4. How far away the moth is and which way it is flying.
5. They eat many insects, which keeps the number of pests down.
6. It lets the bat find food by sound, so it does not need light.

Square: How Bats Find Food in the Dark

Harder · 152 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.5

1. At night.
2. Echolocation.
3. It bounces back to the bat as an echo.
4. How far away the moth is and which direction it is flying.
5. They eat hundreds of insects, which keeps the number of pests under control.
6. It lets the bat find food by sound, so it does not depend on light.