

Bats



There are more than 1,000 kinds of bats. Like birds, bats have wings and can fly. However, bats are not birds. Bats have fur, not feathers. Also, baby bats drink milk

from their mothers. They don't eat worms or seeds.

Bats have thin, light bones that help them fly. However, because their bones are thin and light, most bats cannot walk on land. Only vampire bats have legs that are strong enough to let them walk on land. In fact, vampire bats walk on their legs and their wings.

Most bats have sharp claws that they use to grab onto a tree or a cave so they can hang upside down to rest. When bats rest, they look small. Bats look much bigger when they stretch their wings. Their wingspan, or the distance between the tip of one wing to the tip of the other, can be as much as five feet. That's probably taller than you are. Some bats, though, have wingspans that are only as big as your hand.

Most bats rest during the day and fly at night. Many

bats eat bugs. Some eat up to 2,000 bugs in one hour, or 33 bugs in one minute. Other bats eat fruit. Vampire bats feed on small amounts of blood from animals like pigs and birds.

Many bats have names that tell how they look. Dog-faced bats look like dogs. Flying foxes, which are bats, look like foxes.

Other bats have names that tell what they do. Fishing bats use their long legs and sharp claws to grab fish from the water. Tent-making bats build tents around themselves with leaves.

Bats cannot see well, but they can hear well. Bats make a high sound as they fly. The sound is so high that most people cannot hear it. These waves of sound bounce off walls, trees, and insects. They keep bats from flying into things. They also help bats find food and stay safe.

