



BAT PROGRAM

The bat program is a one-hour presentation that can be delivered in your classroom or at Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary.

In your classroom please provide:

- * Large easy-to-read student **nametags**
- * Student seating place for initial group presentation (carpet ideal), along with chair and desk or small table for adult presenter
- * Wall space for poster displays

GOALS:

The goals of this program for your students are to:

- a) Appreciate and respect bats, and the role they play in the environment.
- b) Understand some of the biology of bats: their food, behavior, unique structure, basic classification
- c) Compare their body to that of a bat.

PRESENTATION:

Using a combination of objects, displays, sounds, and games the presentation will explore some of the myths about bats, the importance of bats, bat adaptations, bat habits, and a special focus on echolocation.

Student Dress-up: Various parts of bat anatomy will be reviewed as a selected student is dressed in costume (if time permits).

At **no** time will any bats be handled. Live bats are **NOT** part of this program. We will address this issue in our presentation. All of our specimens are kept in plastic see-through boxes.

Payment:

An invoice will accompany the confirmation letter you receive. Payment is due at the time of the program, and cheques should be made out to **Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary** and given to the programmer. **VISA or MC** payments may be phoned in.

Receipts will be sent by fax or e-mail upon request.

Change of Dates and/or Times

If you wish to change the date or time of your program please contact us at **250.479.0211** or at programs@swanlake.bc.ca. We will do our best to accommodate your request, depending on available times and dates.

BAT FACTS

All bats in British Columbia, and even in all of Canada, eat **insects**. This is the case for most bats. They are **insectivores**. They have special teeth for crunching up the tough exoskeleton of bugs to the gooey goodness inside. They are very important in controlling insect populations.

Some bats in other countries however are **fruit eaters**. Some plants such as avocados and bananas depend on bats for pollination. The biggest bat in the world, the flying fox, eats fruit and has a wingspan of up to be 5 feet wide. Some bats are **carnivores**, feeding on fish and other small animals like frogs and mice. Very few bat species feed on **blood** but do not attack people. They usually feed on livestock and don't actually suck up blood but rather make a tiny cut with their teeth and lap it up like a cat. People are sometimes afraid of bats because they think they carry disease and are dirty. Bats are actually very clean and are no more likely to carry rabies than a cat or a dog.

Bats live almost everywhere in the world except for very hot and very cold places. They live on every continent except **Antarctica**.

If we went out tonight would we see bats? If in fall or winter, the answer is no. Bats in BC eat **INSECTS**. There are few insects available to eat in winter. So bats either migrate or hibernate to survive the winter. They find a safe place to hide and hang out upside down and facing out all winter long. Why do they hang upside down? Their legs are too weak to hold them up and they need to take off by letting go and dropping down.

Echolocation

How does it work? How do we know they do this if we cannot hear it? We must use special tools to detect these calls that are beyond the human range of hearing. The call bounces off objects and allows the bat to make a mental "picture".

WEBSITES YOU MIGHT LIKE TO VISIT

Masters of the Night Bat Quiz – This Lawrence Hall of Science (UC Berkeley) page provides 6 links to bat information. Then it's on to the main event: an interactive, nine-question quiz. The computer keeps score!

<http://www.lhs.berkeley.edu/BatQuiz.html>

The Bat Poet Page – This page starts with a collection of links to bat poetry by students and adults. Down below the links sit several full-text bat poems.

<http://www.batbox.org/poetry.html>

North American Bat House Research Project – This site supports the preservation of Bats by giving detailed characteristics of successful houses.

<http://www.batcon.org/index.php>

<http://www.kidzone.ws/animals/bats>