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A NOTE TO TEACHERS AND PARENTS

This book is filled with exciting activities for children. Each page is written directly for the children, with activities and information that they can easily understand.

The activities in this book cross the curriculum: maths, English, science and art. For example, children compare a variety of objects with the length of a bat's wingspan; they study bat family trees and create their own family trees; they compare their diet with a fruit bat's diet; and they create their own bat mobiles.

If you are working through this book as a class, simply photocopy the activities and give a page to each child (or each group of children, if you are doing group activities).

Note that many of the projects are perfect for homework assignments. If you are teaching about geography, you can have children study the Bat World Map and then do research to find out different facts about a variety of bat habitats. Children can then bring back their information to share with the class.

Parents can also help their children with the activities in this book. Directions can be read aloud and the activities can be done together. For example, read about the types of fruits that bats pollinate, then make a 'Let's Go Batty fruit salad' together.

The most important thing about *Bats* is that children will be having fun while they explore the scientific world!



WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF BATS

Bats are amazing creatures! They are mammals, which means that they are warm-blooded animals that have backbones. Most are nocturnal. This means that they sleep during the daytime and stay awake at night.

There are nearly 1000 different types of bats. Most bats are helpful to humans. Some bats help people by keeping insect populations under control. Other bats pollinate flowers.

Let's take a journey to study bats. You'll learn about fruit bats, insect-eating bats, vampire bats and more. You can study bats almost anywhere, because bats live all over the world – except in polar regions.

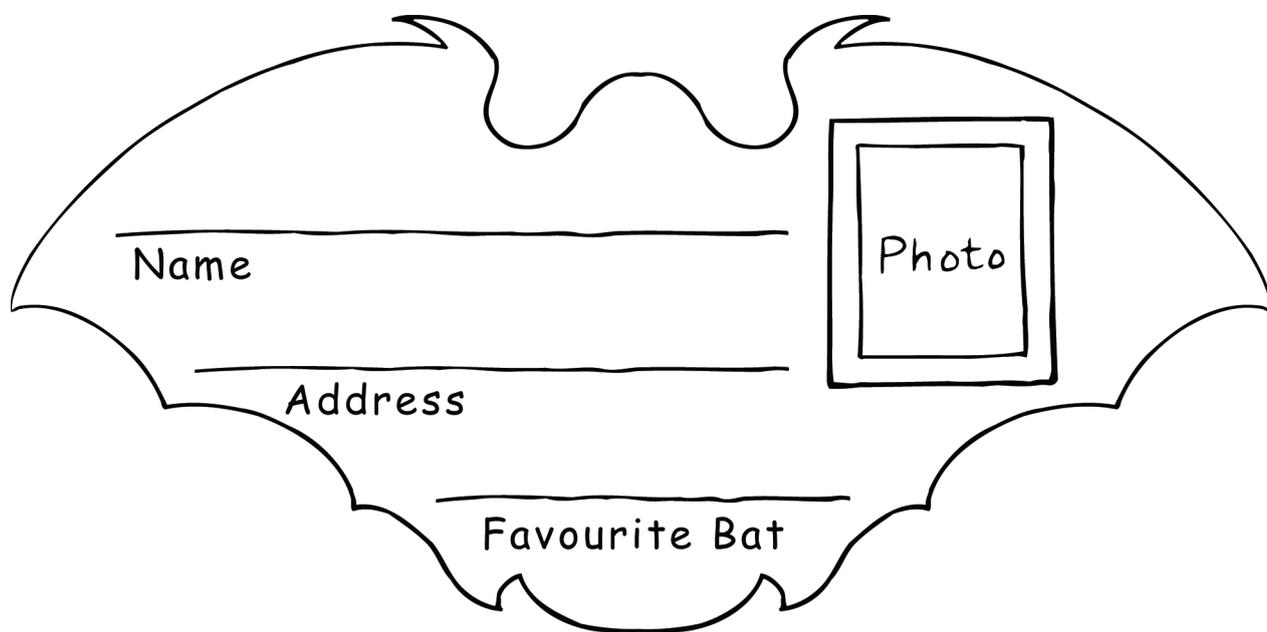
Look at the 'Bat World Map'. This will tell you where all the different kinds of bats are found.



Before we get started, you're going to need a passport, because we're going to be visiting places around the world. Either draw a picture of yourself or tape a photograph of yourself in the passport pattern. Then cover your picture (or drawing) with clear contact paper to protect it.

Now that you have a passport, you're ready to go! But before you learn all about bats, check your current bat knowledge with the Bat Quiz. Then check the answers to the quiz.

You can use your Scientist's Notebook to start recording information you've learned. Whenever you want to remember a specific bit of information, write it in your notebook. If you run out of room, use any lined paper.



BAT QUIZ

1. Bats are a type of bird.
2. Some cultures consider bats to be good luck.
3. Bats stay awake during the day and sleep at night.
4. The smallest mammal in the world is a bat.
5. There is a bat with a tongue longer than its head and body combined.
6. All bats drink blood.
7. Bats live only in Transylvania.
8. The scientific name for bats, *Chiroptera*, means scary things that fly at night.
9. Bats can live to be over 20 years old.
10. Bats can fly up to 100 kilometres per hour.

