

# Crafty Bats and Batty Facts!

Bats are amazing creatures, but they aren't easy to spot because they fly out of their roosts at dusk or after dark—when we are getting ready to go to bed! And even if we do go out in the dark looking for them, there sometimes isn't enough lights or our eyes to see them!

But we can still learn lots about these amazing mammals, and make our own bats! In this resource we will include instructions on how to make different crafty bats, and include some bat facts!



**This activity has been inspired by similar resources by Bat Conservation Trust**  
**If you go out for a walk later on at dusk, always make sure you take an adult with you and be super careful if it starts to go dark! Make sure you take a torch or headlight with you, and walk in an area that you know well and know is safe.**

## JOHN MUIR DISCOVER AWARD Summer Holiday Family Challenge



## Toilet Roll Bat

### Resources and materials:

- An empty toilet roll
- Thin card
- Paint and paint brush
- Sticky tape
- String
- Glue
- Scissors



### How to:

- First paint your toilet roll. You can paint it similar to a bat, or of a colour of your choice!
- Leave the toilet roll to dry.
- Using your thin card, draw 2 bat wings, one face and one tail. Cut these out very carefully with adult supervision.
- If you want, you can also paint these wings, face and tail.
- After leaving all the paint to dry, glue the face onto one end of the toilet roll (or use sticky tape—whichever you find easiest). If gluing, stand the toilet roll vertical so that the face doesn't fall off whilst it is drying.
- Then use sticky tape to stick the wings on to each side of the toilet roll body. If you don't want to use sticky tape, very carefully (and with adult supervision) use scissors to make 2 small slits in toilet roll, to attach one end of each wing.
- Stick the tail to the inside of the toilet roll tube at the opposite end to the face.
- If you want, ask an adult to help you, and put in a small hole at the top of the bat and then thread your string through so you can hang it up and make as many as you want!





## Bat Facts! - True or False!

**Do you think that these facts are true or false? Answers are on the next page but don't peek! With the toilet roll bats you have just made why not have a place for true and a different place for false and see how many you get right!**

1. Bats are the only true flying mammal
2. There are over 1000 species of bats
3. Bats only fly when the sun is out
4. All bats drink blood
5. Bats only live for 2 years
6. Some bats in the world are already extinct
7. Bats help to produce bananas
8. Bats help to produce cheese
9. Bats help to produce vanilla
10. Bats give birth to 10 babies a year
11. In winter bats hibernate
12. A group of bats is called a herd
13. Bats are blind
14. Bats like to live in a pile of leaves
15. Bats can live at the south pole
16. Bats can run very quickly on their legs
17. Most bats eat insects
18. Bats make no noise



**Why not research more? A great place to start is the Bat Conservation Trust—**  
<https://www.bats.org.uk/>

## Bat Facts! - True or False!

The answers! Why not research more? A great place to start is the Bat Conservation Trust—<https://www.bats.org.uk/>

1. TRUE
2. TRUE
3. FALSE—they are nocturnal
4. FALSE—only 3 species of vampire bats do
5. FALSE—can live 10-20 years
6. TRUE
7. TRUE
8. FALSE—cows do
9. TRUE
10. FALSE—they only give birth to 1
11. TRUE
12. FALSE—called a colony
13. FALSE—they have poor eyesight but rely on their sonar abilities
14. FALSE—live in dark places live caves and trees
15. FALSE—they live everywhere except Antarctica/ South Pole
16. FALSE—Bats only use their legs to hang, they can't run
17. TRUE
18. FALSE— Bats make high pitched squeaking which can normally only be detected by using a bat detectors.





## Thumb bat stories!

### Resources and materials:

- An ink pad (or use footprint ink from the tracking tunnels!)
- A felt tip pen (or normal pen)
- A thumb!
- Paper

### How to:

- Dip your thumb in the ink, and then make a thumbprint on a piece of paper. This is the body of your bat.
- Add other features to your bat as you wish—ears, wings, a thumb at the end of each wing, toes!
- Make a few bats across the page.
- When you have as many as you want, draw speech bubbles and make up your own story!

