

Bat Hat

Bats are nocturnal and use echolocation to sense the walls of their dark caves. These winged mammals pollinate trees and plants as they fly around. They also help control the insect population. Children can wear these unique bat hats to share their bat knowledge with others.



Materials

For each child:

- ✿ two 12- by-18 inch sheets of black construction paper
- ✿ 2 hole reinforcements

Other materials:

- ✿ white or light crayon
- ✿ 24-inch ruler or straight edge
- ✿ clear tape
- ✿ scissors
- ✿ stapler

Tip

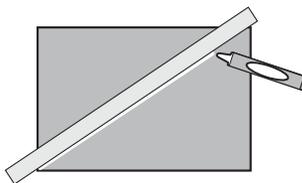
If desired, cut out feet from black paper. Then tape the feet to the bottom of the completed bat.

What to Do

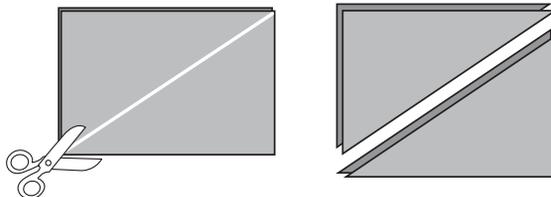
Pass out the materials. Then demonstrate the following steps.

Head and Body

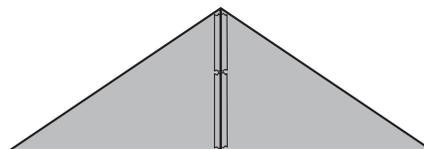
- 1** Stack the black papers. Using the ruler and crayon, draw a diagonal line from corner to corner on the top sheet.



- 2** Cut along the line through both sheets. When finished, you will have two sets of triangles.



- 3** Flip over one of the triangles in a set. Position and tape the two shapes together to make one large triangle, as shown.



Write About It!

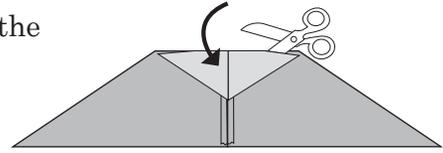
After sharing Gail Gibbons' *Bats* (see below), invite children to work together to create a class alphabet book about bats. Challenge them to come up with a bat fact for each letter of the alphabet, such as *echolocation* for *e*. (Gibbons' book contains terms such as *nocturnal*, *membrane*, and *roosts*—all great words for a bat alphabet book!) Then have children write a brief explanation of each fact. You might provide a variety of alphabet books for children to use as inspiration.

Nonfiction Literature Links

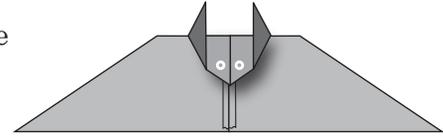
Bats
by Gail Gibbons
(Holiday House, 2000).
Gibbons explores all aspects of a bat's life, including echolocation, hibernation, and natural habitats.

Bats
by Lily Wood
(Scholastic, 2001).
Gorgeous photographs enhance the author's introduction to the fascinating world of bats.

- 4** To make the head, fold down the top 3 inches of the triangle. Starting at each side, cut along the fold about halfway to the center.

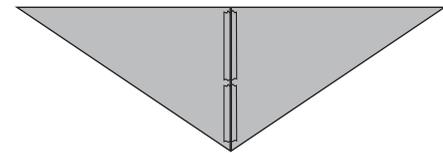


- 5** Fold up the loose corners of the cut section to create ears. Add hole reinforcements for eyes.

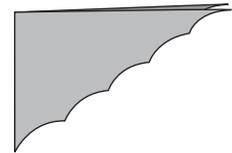


Wings

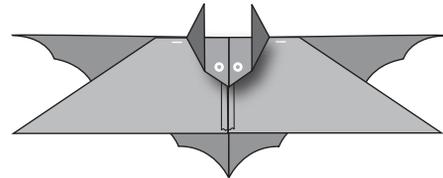
- 6** Repeat step 3 with the other set of triangles. Position the large triangle as shown.



- 7** To make realistic-looking wings, fold the triangle in half. Cut scallops along the long edge, as shown, cutting through both layers.



- 8** Unfold the wings. Center the body on top of the wings. Then staple the body in place at the "shoulders."



- 9** To make the hat, help each child overlap the bottom corners of the body so that the bat fits around his or her head. Tape the ends in place.



Put your bat hat on and dart away!

How to Display

Wrap the wings around the bat body and fasten them together with a paper clip. Then convert your classroom into a bat cave by suspending the bats upside down from the ceiling.