

Going Batty

Always a favorite at Halloween time, this simple yet lifelike paper bat hangs right-side-up or upside-down and can flap its wings!

Materials

For each student:

- ☉ bat patterns (page 3)
- ☉ 9- by 12-inch piece of black construction paper
- ☉ 12-inch black or brown pipe cleaner (the large, fuzzy kind is best)

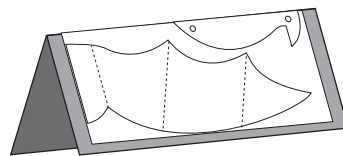
Other materials:

- ☉ tape
- ☉ scissors
- ☉ hole punch
- ☉ light-colored paper scraps (optional)



Pass out all the materials. Have students cut out the bat pattern box. Then demonstrate the following steps.

1 Fold the black construction paper in half the long way. Line up the pattern box along the folded side of the construction paper as shown. Tape the pattern to the paper in a few places to hold it in place.

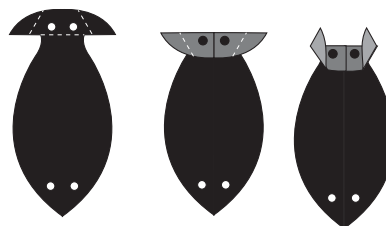


2 Punch holes through the dots on the bat's body. Then cut out the bat's wings and body. Cut through all layers of the paper.

3 Remove the patterns. Tape together the two sections of wings as shown.



4 Open up the bat's body. Fold down the head and fold up the ears as shown. To make the eyes show better, tape a small scrap of light-colored paper to the bat's head behind the eyes.



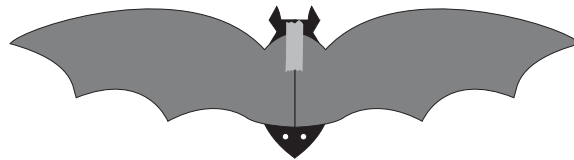
Book Break

Bats by Robin Bernard (Scholastic Professional Books, 1998). This complete cross-curricular theme unit includes background information about bats, hands-on activities, a read-aloud play, and a big poetry poster. Students can use their paper bats when acting out the play!

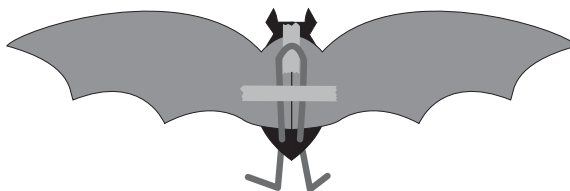
Shadows of Night: The Hidden World of the Little Brown Bat by Barbara Bash (Sierra Club Books, 1993). Vivid watercolor paintings enhance this account of the first year in the life of a little brown bat.

Stellaluna by Janell Cannon (Harcourt, 1993). Young readers will adore this fictional story of a fruit-eating bat who is raised by birds.

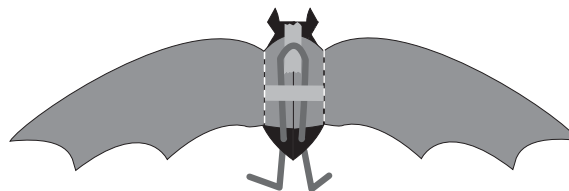
5 Tape the wings to the back of the bat's head.



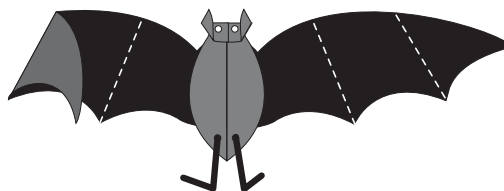
6 Fold the pipe cleaner in half. Slip the ends through the punched holes in the bat's body. Tape the folded pipe cleaner to the back of the wings, leaving a loop at the top for a fingerhold or hanger. Fold up the ends of the pipe cleaner to form feet.



7 Fold back the wings close to the bat's body.



8 Turn the bat over so that it is facing you. Now fold each wing inward in two places as shown. Each wing should have three folds in all.



☉ Children can hold their bat by its pipe cleaner loop and make it make dip and soar with wings flapping or sleep upside-down with folded wings! (To do this, simply fold back the pipe cleaner loop and find a quiet spot to hang it.)

Ways to Display

While this lifelike bat will provide children with plenty of October fun, it can also provide a basis for learning about this fascinating mammal. Create a "Going Batty" display by hanging children's creations over a bookshelf filled with books about bats. (See Book Break, left.)

P A T T E R N P A G E

Going Batty • Bat Wings & Body

