

BATS!

Objective: Students will repurpose paper bags to craft unique paper sculptures and animal puppets.

Topics & Keywords for Discussion: Bats, nocturnal, paper sculpture.

Materials: copies of bat anatomy template (1 per student), paper bags, brown and black construction paper, scissors and glue, crayons & markers

Opening activity: Have students sit down and close their eyes. Invite them to imagine that they are a bat, looking for a yummy insect to eat. Ask students- "If you only had your ears to navigate, do you think you could capture a bug?" Invite students to be silent so that they can try to catch a bug in their hands with their eyes closed... walking around the room QUIETLY, rub your hands together, snap your fingers softly near their ears and see if they can catch your hands in theirs, without opening their eyes! When you are complete giving every table a chance, have students open their eyes and share some bat facts- see what bat facts students already have, and if they are NEW to bat facts, share some of your own! Bats are fascinating creatures with an important role to play in many diverse ecosystems, and in popular culture, especially around Halloween time!

Core Activity: Students will be making paper sculpture bats from bags! See example below. Invite students to use their imagination to make colorful or fantastic bats- a even a bat we've never seen before is welcome in the space of this activity. Perhaps students want to make a rainbow bat or a BAT-UNICORN hybrid... Everything goes in this lesson.

Reflection: Students who are completed at the end of class should have at least 1 opportunity to swarm with their bat puppets. Often at dusk bats will emerge from their daytime hiding spots to feed, and the spectacle can be breathtaking or a bit scary! You can break students into "bat packs" to swarm together with their bat puppets before completing the lesson.



