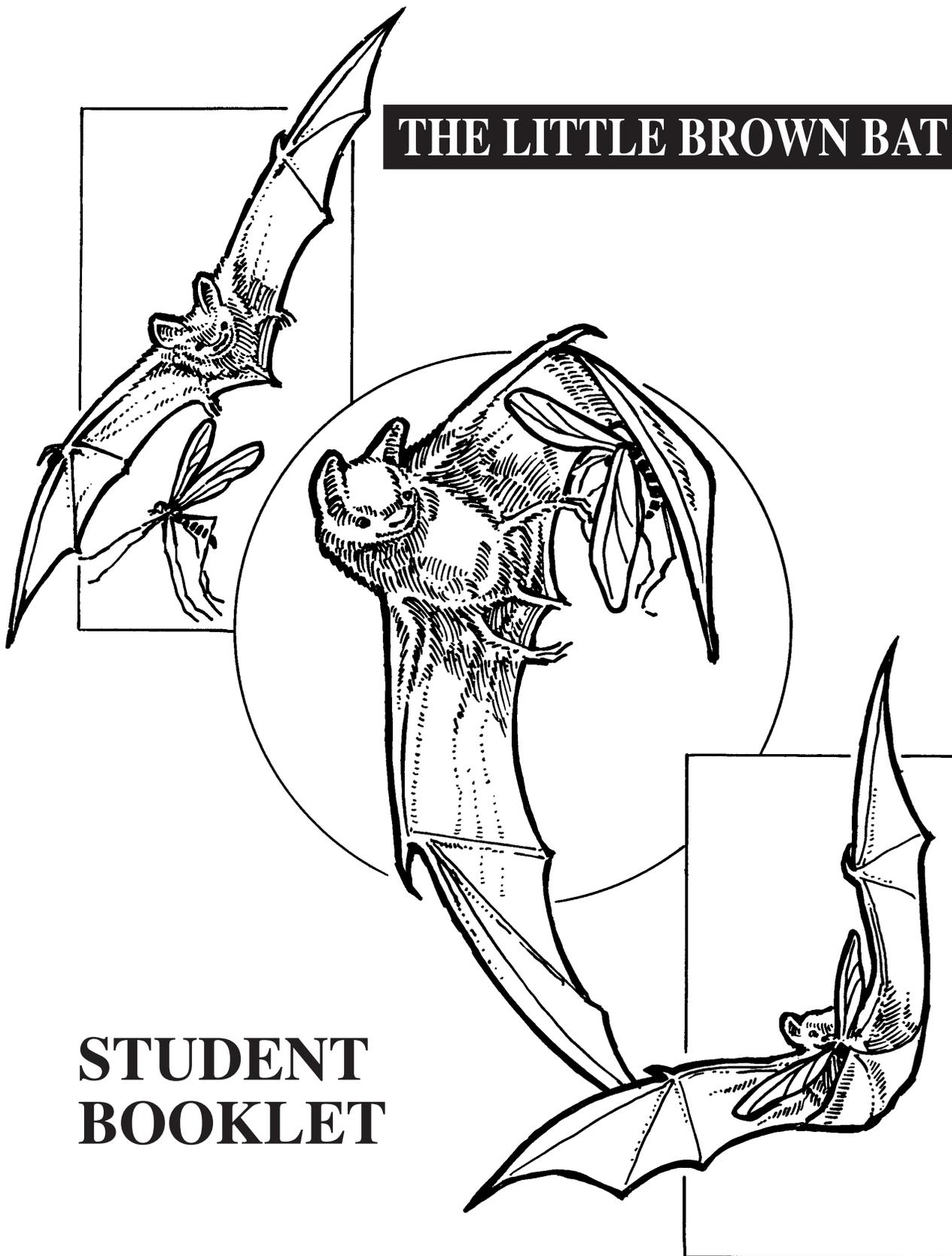


# THE LITTLE BROWN BAT



## STUDENT BOOKLET

## Student Booklet Page One: Bat Attitudes

Please circle your answer to these questions:

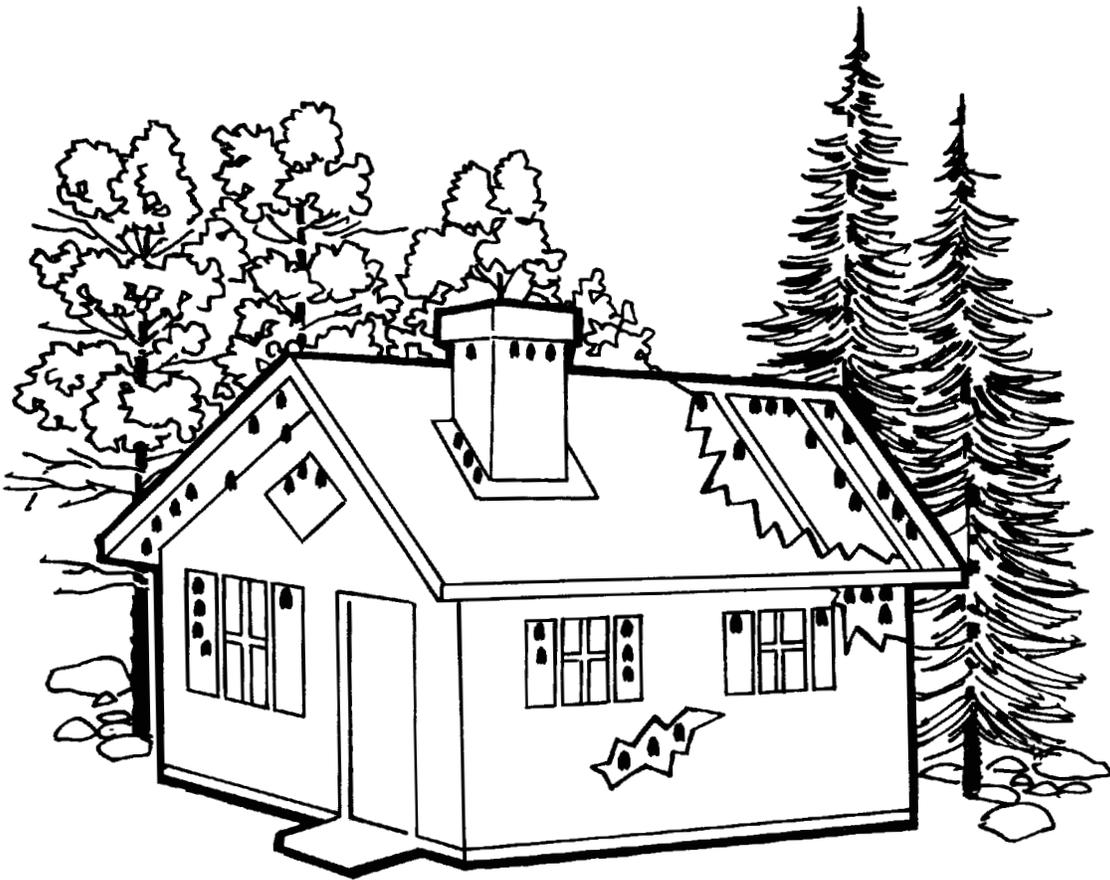
1. I think that bats are scary. YES or NO
  2. I think that all bats eat blood. YES or NO
  3. I think that there are no bats in Alberta. YES or NO
  4. I think that bats are blind. YES or NO
  5. I think that all bats live in caves. YES or NO
  6. I think that a bat would fly into my hair. YES or NO
  7. I think that baby bats drink milk. YES or NO
  8. I think that bats are dirty. YES or NO
-

## Student Booklet Page Two: Bat Story

Hi, my name is Myotis Lucifugus or Little Brown Bat. Little Brown Bats are the most common bat in Alberta. I live at Wabamun Lake in a cabin with 50 of my family. I'll bet that not many children have seen a little brown bat before. I am really small. I weigh 8.5 gm or the same as 2 nickels. My wing span is 20 cm or the same as the distance across this paper. My name, Myotis, "means mouse-eared".

When I was a baby I drank milk from my mother. I could not fly so I hung on very tight to my mother's fur while we hung upside-down. They called me a pup. When my mother came back from hunting, she knew my special call, wheek, wheek and flew right to me. As my fur grew, my mother showed me how to keep clean by combing my fur with my claws. I also had to clean my face and ears just like you.

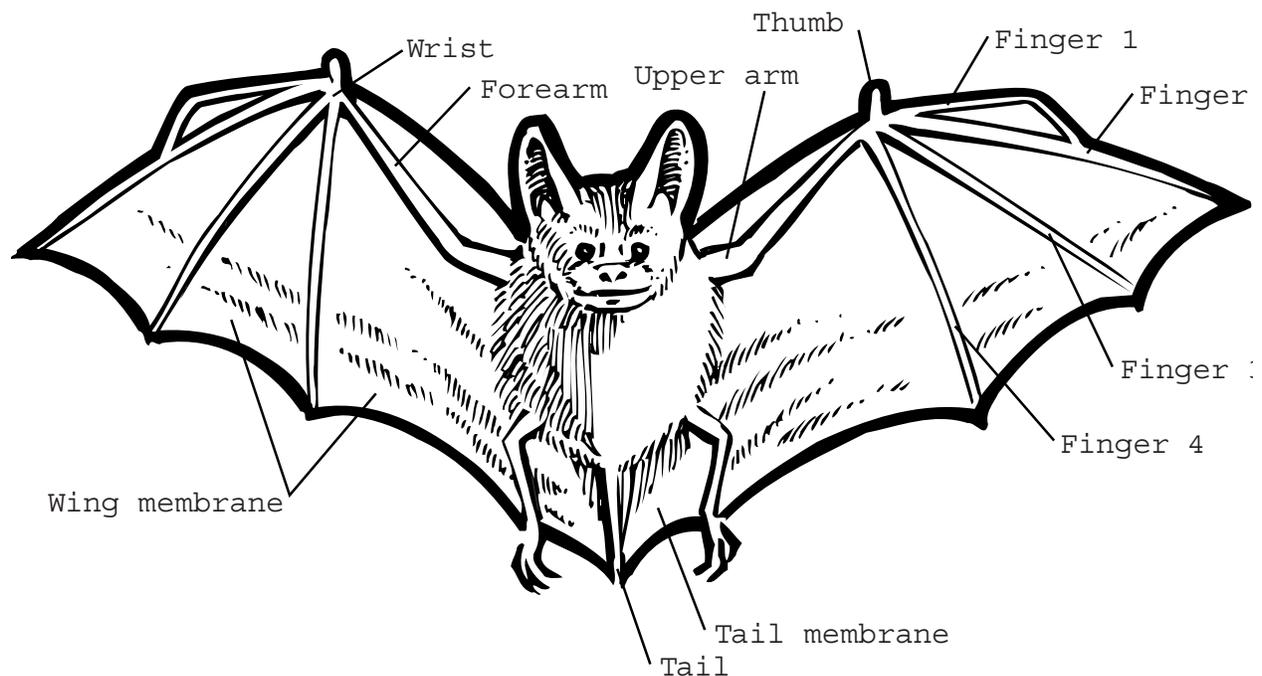
Alberta has nine kinds of bats. All bats in Alberta eat insects.



## Student Booklet Page Three: Bat Story

I am a flying mammal. Now that I am an adult I go out twice a night to catch flying insects. I go out one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise. The rest of the night and day, about 20 hours, I stay hidden, sleeping or cleaning my body.

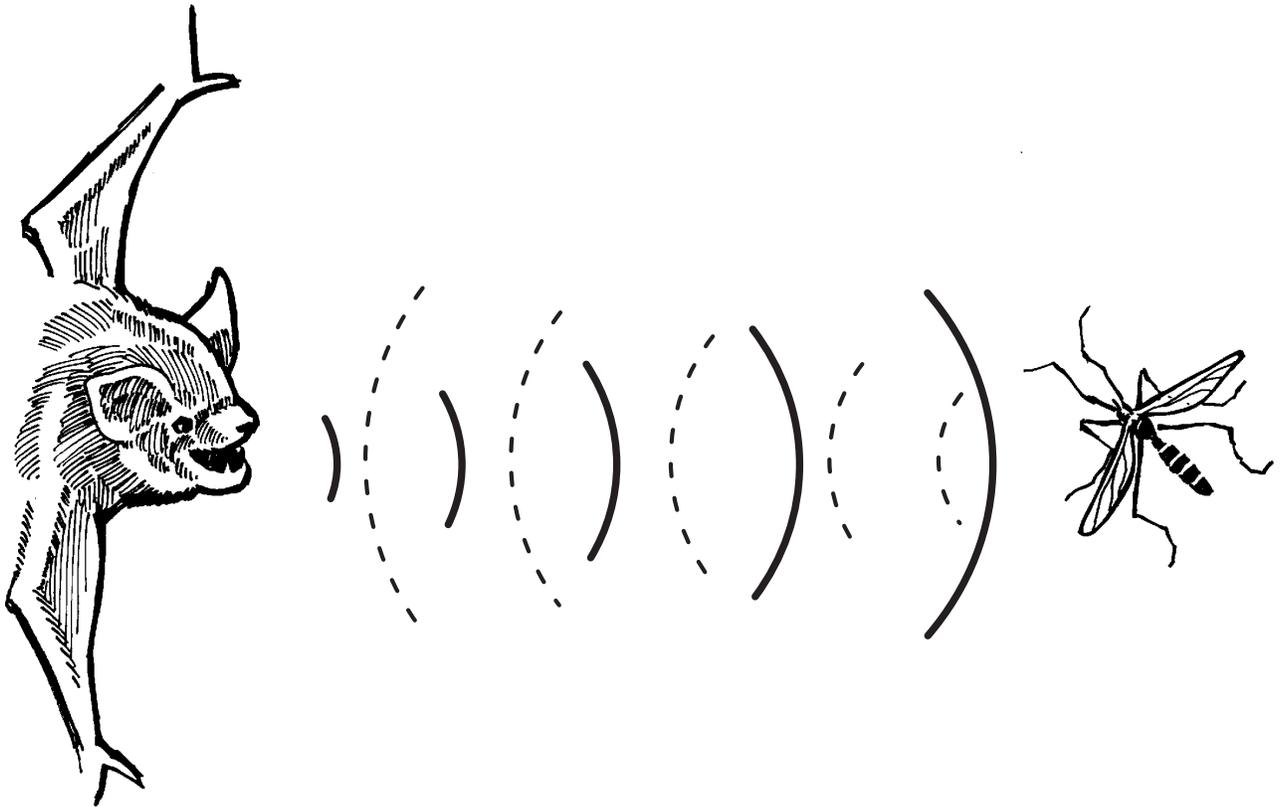
You and I have hands that are alike. The bones of my hand are longer, with skin in between making my wings. I also have skin between my legs and tail to help me catch insects and to turn quickly in the air. My wings make a super coat when it is raining or cold. I am better at flying than most birds and can fly as fast as 20 kilometres per hour.



## Student Booklet Page Four: Bat Story

I fly out above Wabamun Lake to hunt with my cousin. She ate 600 flying insects in one hour. Our whole colony of bats ate 50 kilograms of flying insects last summer. We need to eat alot. During the seven cold months of winter there are no insects to eat.

Bats are not blind! I can see at night. I will not fly into a tree or your hair. It is my large ears that are my most important tool. I make high squeaks that quickly travel out into the air. When the sound hits an object it bounces back to my ears like an echo. This is echo-location. Those tasty mosquitoes sound different from a tree. Totally cool!

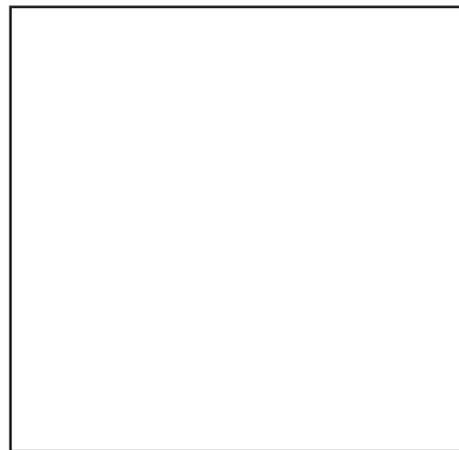
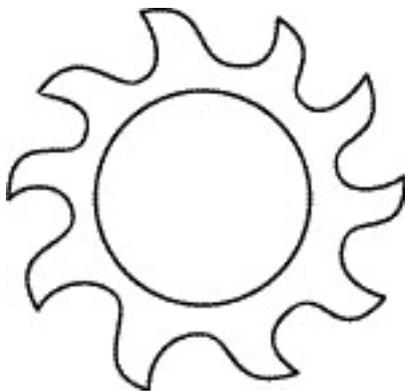


## Student Booklet Page Five: Bat Story

My family lives near water because many insects lay their eggs in the water. When the eggs hatch and the adults fly away there are many animals waiting to eat them. Some animals eat plants, some animals eat other animals and some animals eat dead material. Little brown bats eat other animals, flying insects. Beetles, mosquitoes, and moths are my favorites.

My cousin and I have to be very careful in the night. We have an enemy that likes to eat bats. It is a very quiet flyer! Can you guess? It is the great horned owl. We must be very fast, twisting and turning, to avoid the owl's talons.

Little Brown Bats have another enemy- people! People do not kill bats, but they destroy bat's homes. A mother bat needs to find a safe place to birth her one baby each year. If a lot of babies are not born each year then soon bats will be endangered. This means there will only be a few bats left.



## Student Booklet Page Six: Bat Story

Being “Myotis Lucifugus” has led to super adventures. I flew away from the cabin one night and had to find another safe place to sleep. When it was time for my morning hunt, I could not fly outside. I folded my wings and hid in a dark place to wait.

Soon people voices came closer and then there was light! I had never heard a scream before. It was really hard on my ears! Great big eyes stared at me! They put a clear round shape over me and a shaky hand slid a piece of paper under me! It flipped me over, trapping me inside! Where was I?



## Student Booklet Page Seven: Bat Story

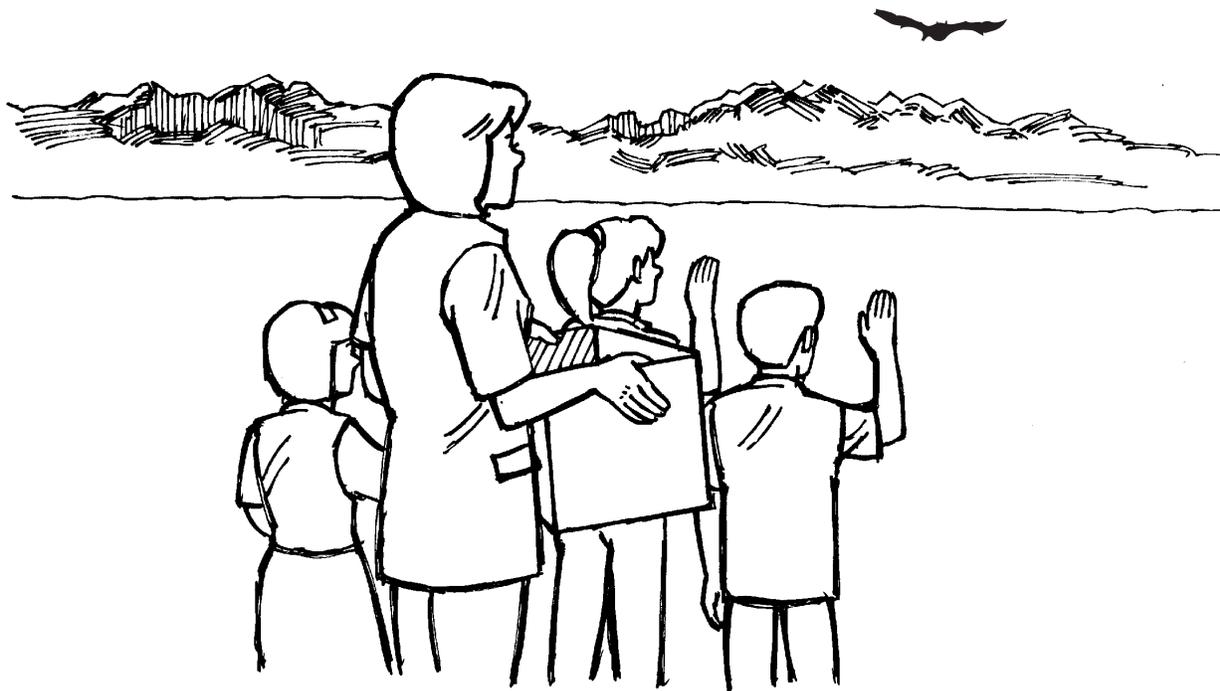
Wow! I was at school! After the children got over being afraid, they didn't yell or hurt me. They took me to the library for the day, put me on a table and took out books about bats. I learned so many things about the world of bats before they let me go that night.

There are 1,000 different kinds of bats in the world. Bats make up one quarter of all mammal species. Bats live in every country in the world.

There are two groups of bats: micro-bats and mega-bats. Micro-bats usually have large ears and small eyes and mega-bats have small ears and big eyes. Most micro-bats eat insects and use echolocation to find their food. A few micro-bats have large claws and catch fish for food. Mega-bats eat fruit, nectar and pollen and use their good eyesight and smell to find their food.

Bats are neat! I hope you know more about bats than you did before. I have to go now. It is getting colder and I must go with my colony to hibernate.

I enjoyed writing this story about my family and me. Good luck and happiness to you all!



## Student Booklet Page Eight: Comparisons

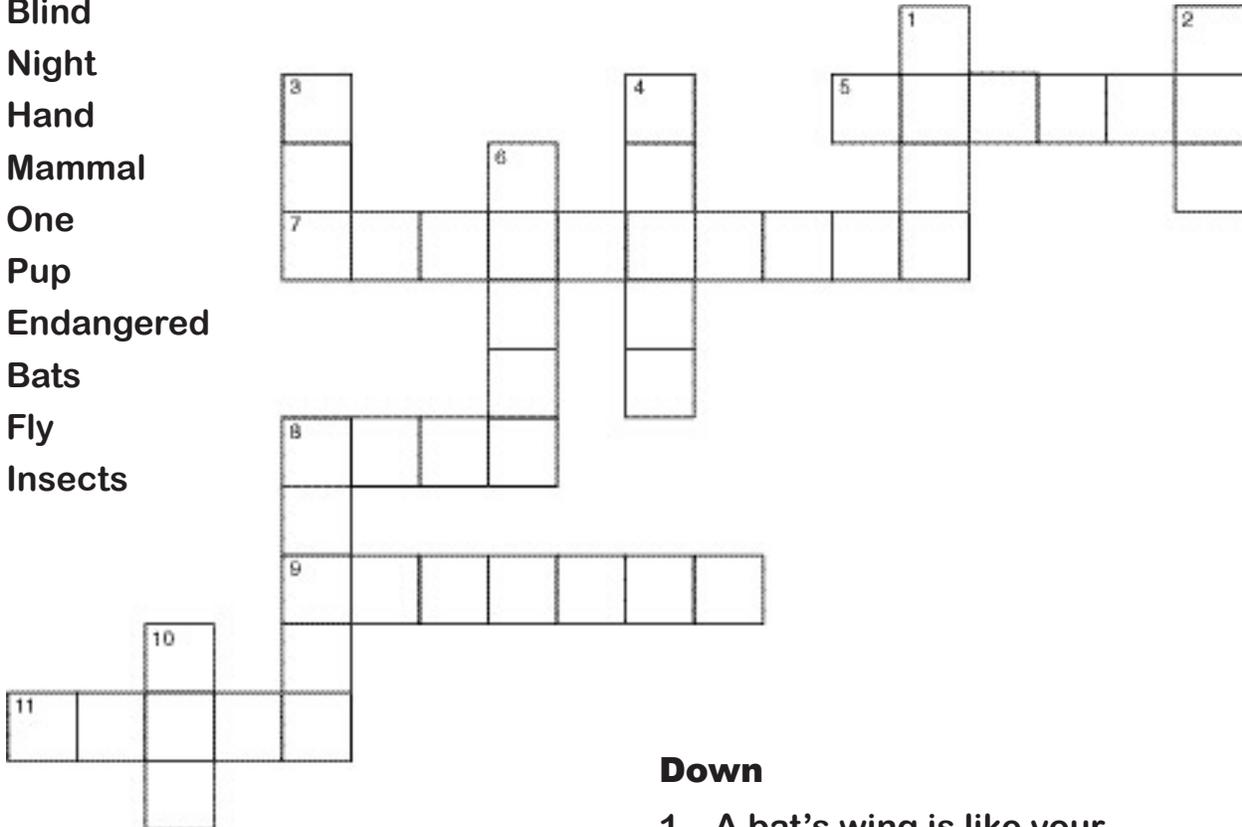
|                        | Little Brown Bat | Red-winged Blackbird | Dragonfly |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| Kind of animal         |                  |                      | insect    |
| Kind of food           |                  |                      |           |
| Best home              |                  |                      |           |
| Kind of baby           |                  | egg/chick            |           |
| Baby's food            | milk             |                      |           |
| Covering on wings      |                  |                      |           |
| How are wings special? |                  |                      |           |
| Number of legs?        |                  |                      |           |

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## Student Booklet Page Nine: Batword Puzzle

Choose from the following words:

- Caves
- Sound
- Blind
- Night
- Hand
- Mammal
- One
- Pup
- Endangered
- Bats
- Fly
- Insects



### Across

- 5 A bat is a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 Animals that are losing their habitat are \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ are found all over the world.
- 9 A little brown bat eats \_\_\_\_\_.
- 11 Little brown bats make a \_\_\_\_\_ to find food and to miss trees as they fly.

### Down

- 1 A bat's wing is like your \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 Bats are the only mammal that can \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 Most mother bats have only \_\_\_\_\_ baby each year.
- 4 Little brown bats come out only at \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 Little brown bats spend the winter in \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8 All bats can see. No bats are \_\_\_\_\_.
- 10 A baby bat is called a \_\_\_\_\_.

## Student Booklet Page Ten: Bat Attitudes

Please circle your answer to these questions:

1. I think that bats are scary. YES or NO
  2. I think that all bats eat blood. YES or NO
  3. I think that there are no bats in Alberta. YES or NO
  4. I think that bats are blind. YES or NO
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