



# Batty for Bats

Spring and summer evenings are the perfect time to look for bats swooping over forest edges and open fields at sundown. Learn some cool bat facts below and discover a fun bat game you can play with friends!



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## Amazing Acro-bats

Bats are mammals just like humans and dogs and mice, but they have specially adapted arms that are used as wings! Some bats even have extra skin between their legs and tail which adds to their gliding ability. Did you know that most bats cannot take flight from the ground? They must drop from a tree or cave ceiling in order to start flying.

## Eating by Ear

Have you ever wondered why bats have such big ears? Bats use a special hunting technique called **echolocation**. They send out high-pitched squeaking sounds and listen for those sounds to “echo” off of bugs flying nearby. A single bat can catch and eat hundreds of insects in one night. You can listen to a Big Brown Bat making hunting sounds here: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big\\_brown\\_bat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_brown_bat)



Big Brown Bat

## Common Bats

Two common bats found throughout the country are the Tri-colored Bat and the Big Brown Bat. The easiest way to tell them apart is by their size. The Tri-colored Bat is about the size of a sparrow, while the Big Brown Bat is the size of a blue jay. What kinds of bats live in your neighborhood?

Tri-colored Bat



8 - 9 inches

Big Brown Bat



12 - 13 inches

Over 40 different kinds of bats can be found in the United States. Many are considered threatened or endangered species. Learn more at [batcon.org](http://batcon.org)



## Play Bat and Moth

1. Find an open space outdoors and gather a group of people in a circle. Pick one person to be the bat, and one or two people to be moths. The rest of the people are trees.
2. The bat should be blindfolded (or keep his/her eyes closed) and will start in the center of the circle. The moths can go anywhere within the circle.

3. The bat must use **echolocation** to catch the moths. Everytime the bat says “bat” the moths must say “moth”. Once a moth is tagged her or she must leave the circle or become a tree.

4. Take turns until everyone has had a chance to be a bat and a moth. What was it like being a bat and using your ears to hunt?