



# Bats



Bats are an amazing species of animal, that are often misunderstood and feared by humans. Bats play an especially important role in keeping our planet healthy!

Bats are incredibly unique, they are the only mammal capable of flying! The bones in a bat's wings are like extremely long fingers, like in our hands. They are connected by a thin membrane of skin called "Patagium."

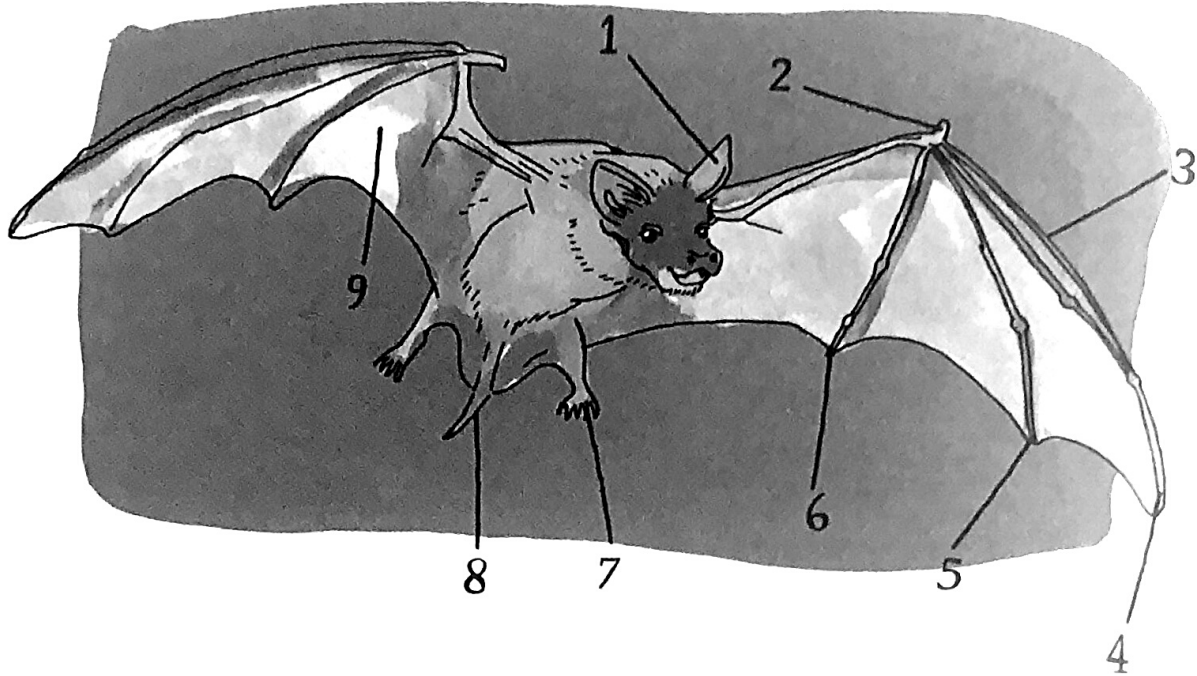
Bats are nocturnal, meaning they are awake during the night. They hunt in the dark, using a special adaptation called "echolocation". To echolocate, a bat sends out a sound wave through their mouth or nose. When the sound wave hits an insect or other object, the sound wave creates an echo back to the bat. This allows the bat to receive detailed information about their environment in total darkness. Even though bats use echolocation, they still have eyes and have the ability to see.

Bats are very important to keeping our planet healthy. They are known as an indicator species, this means that changes in populations can indicate if the ecosystem is healthy or unhealthy. Bats are found in every biome, except the polar regions and extreme deserts. They live in caves, trees, and crevices of rocks. Bats prefer places that are undisturbed by humans in order to care for their young.

Bats feed on fruits, nectar, fish, small birds, lizards, frogs, and other bats. There are two species of bats that feed on blood, they are only found in South America. Many species of plants depend on bats for pollination through their droppings. Bats are also responsible for consuming vast amounts of insects, which keeps insect populations under control.

Humans are one of the biggest threat to bats. Many people fear these unique animals and try to destroy them. They are so important to keeping our planet healthy we need to protect them, not fear them!

# Anatomy of a Bat



1. Ear

2. Thumb

3. Second Finger

4. Third Finger

5. Fourth Finger

6. Fifth Finger

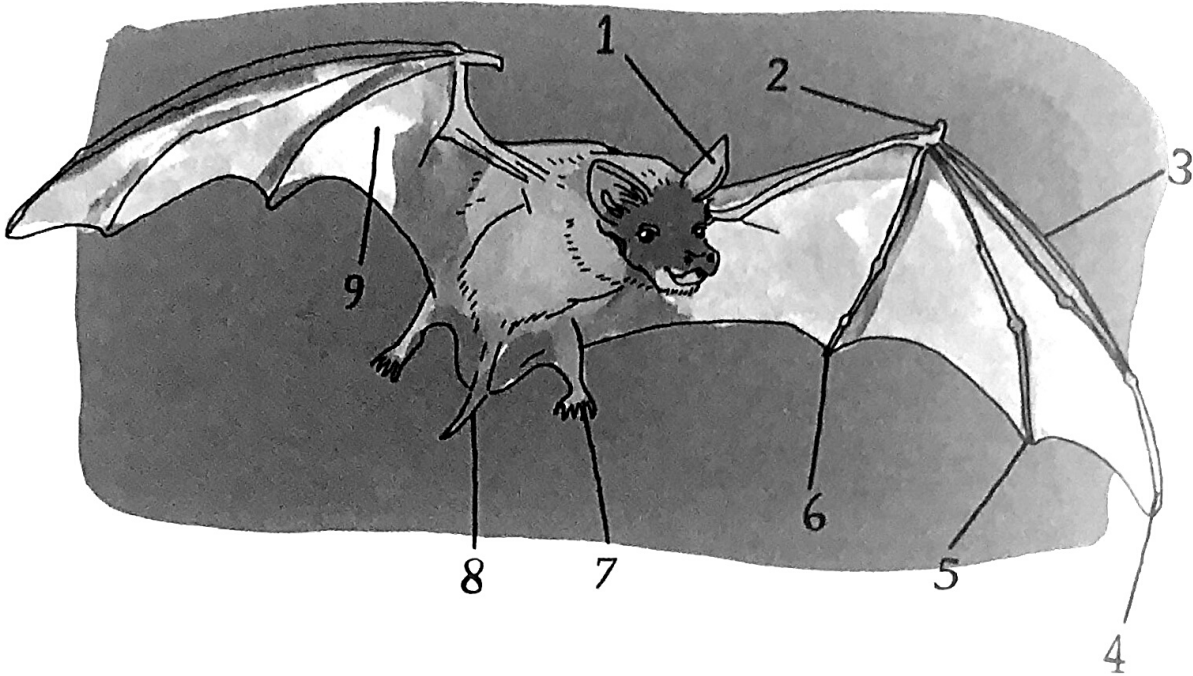
7. Foot

8. Tail

9. Patagium (skin  
membrane)



# Anatomy of a Bat



1.

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10.



# **Myth Buster:** **BATS**



Myth: Bats are blind.

Fact:\_\_\_\_\_

Myth: Bats suck people's blood.

Fact:\_\_\_\_\_

Myth: Bats are rodents.

Fact:\_\_\_\_\_

Myth: Bats are not important.

Fact:\_\_\_\_\_