

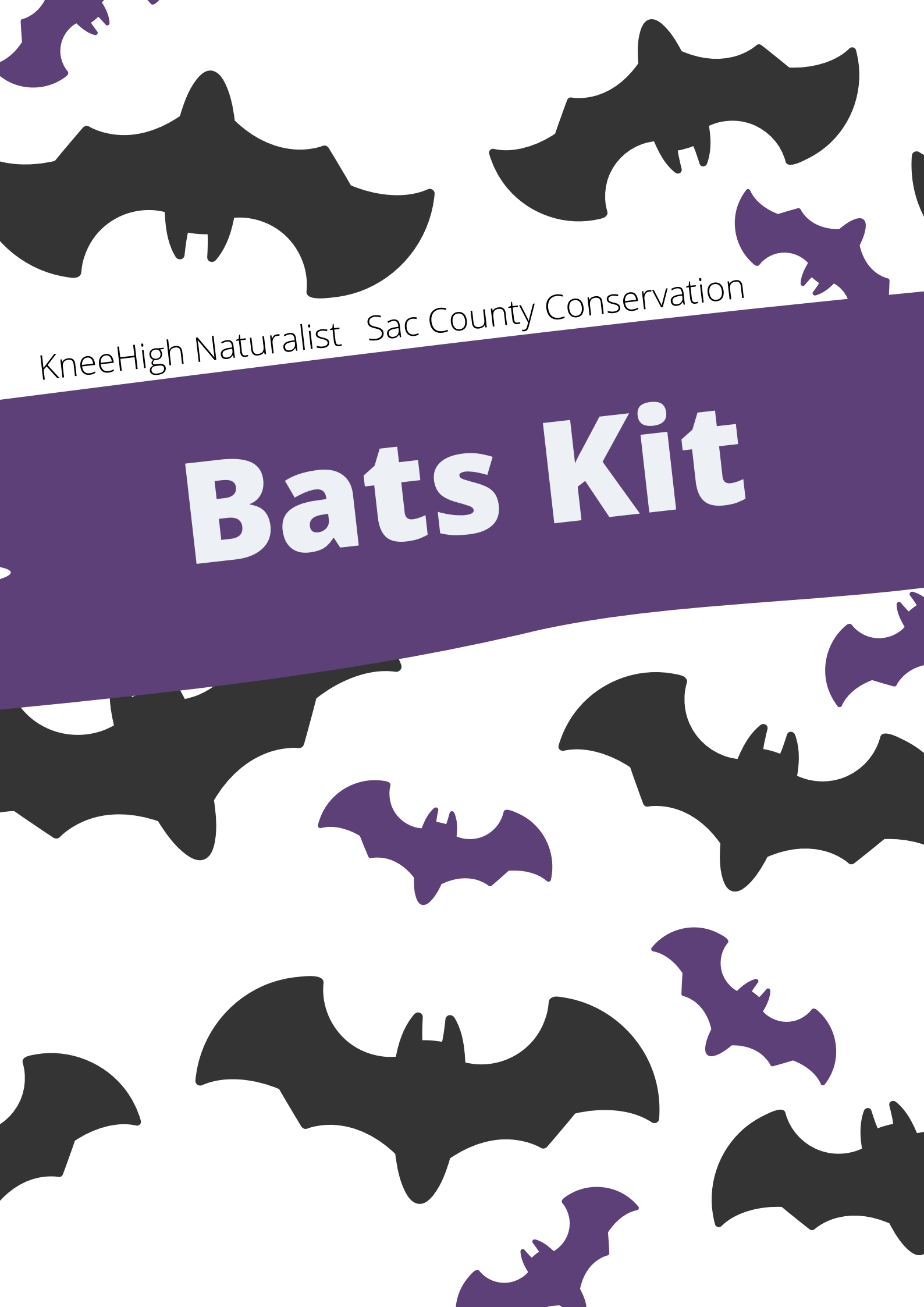
Otis, the Little Brown Bat
Myotis lucifugus

The Secret Life of the Little Brown Bat

by Laurence Pringle

Illustrated by Kate Garchinsky

BoydMillsPress.com



KneeHigh Naturalist Sac County Conservation

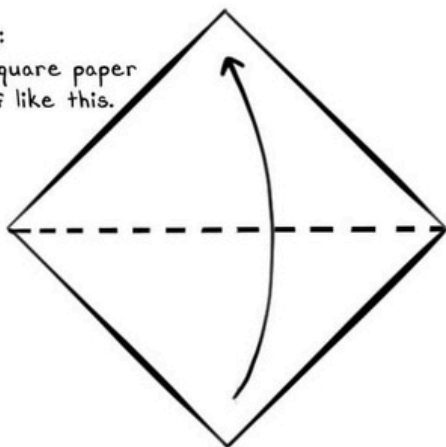
Bats Kit

Origami Bat

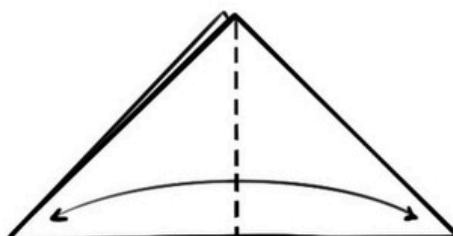
Bats are amazing animals and often live in an attic or tree near you. These small creatures are the only mammals that can fly, and can live up to 30 years! Iowa has nine species of bats all of which eat insects.

In fact, a single little brown bat can eat up to 600 tiny insects, like the mosquito, in an hour. That is pretty amazing! In this activity you will learn to fold an origami bat and if you use an 8 inch paper, it will be about the size of a real little brown bat.

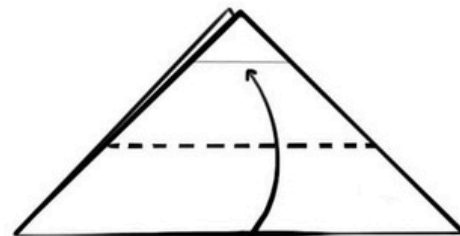
Step 1:
Fold square paper
in half like this.



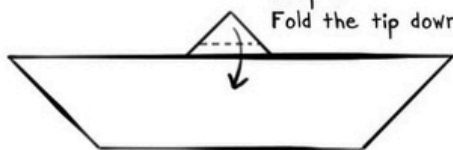
Step 2:
Fold in half again.



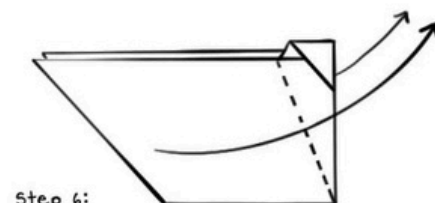
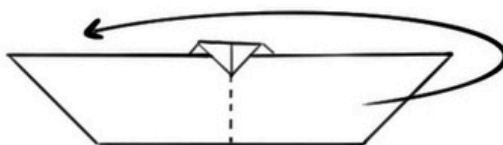
Step 3:
Fold the bottom of the
folded triangle up to the
smaller line indicated by
the arrow so the point of
the triangle sticks out



Step 4:
Fold the tip down over top.

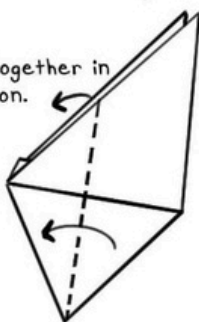


Step 5:
Fold in half.



Step 6:
Fold "wings" together to create this body
shaped fold in the middle.

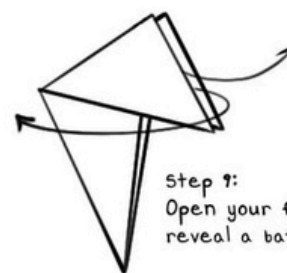
Step 7:
Fold wings back together in
the other direction.



Step 8:
Now fold the wing tips in
half at an angle.



Step 9:
Open your folded paper to
reveal a bat!



Science Extensions:

- > Research the different bats in Iowa. Which one is your favorite?
- > Learn more about echolocation and how bats use it to hunt.

Math:

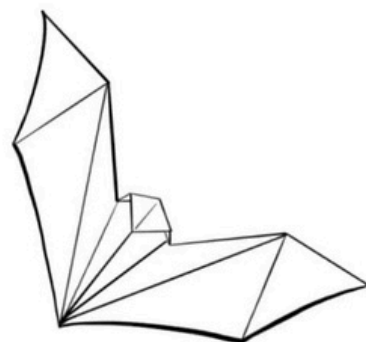
- > If a little brown bat eats 600 mosquitoes in an hour- how many will they eat in a night, a week, or a year?

Physical Education:

- > Go on a night walk and look for bats.

Literacy:

- > Write a haiku about a bat.



Bat Activity

Can you be a bat?

Echolocation

Bats use something called echolocation to hear. They make a sound and then listen for the time it takes for it to bounce back, to know how far away something is.

Test out your echolocation skills by playing a game of Marco Polo. A great place to play is outside in a wide-open yard so there are fewer things to bump into. Have one person be it, with their eyes closed, they will yell out Marco as they try to tag the other players. The other players will respond with polo! If you get tagged you are the next person it.

Smell

Bats that live together in a large group they use their sense of smell to tell their family members apart from other bats. You can try this activity inside or out. Have one person close their eyes, and the other bring them something to smell with their eyes closed and try to guess what it is.

Day Time Sleeper

Bats when active during the summer like to roost in dead or dying trees during the day time. Can even be tucked under bark. Exploring just with your eyes go on a walk to see if you can find any hiding spots where a bat might be. It is important to not disturb sleeping bats, and to never touch a bat.



Five Little Bats

FIVE LITTLE BATS HANGING UPSIDE DOWN.
THE 1ST ONE DIDN'T MAKE A SOUND
THE 2ND ONE SAID, "I'LL FLY FAR TONIGHT."
THE 3RD ONE SAID, "I DON'T LIKE
SUNLIGHT!"
THE 4TH ONE SAID, "I WANT TO EAT A BUG!"
THE 5TH ONE SAID, "LET ME GIVE YOU A
HUG."
FIVE LITTLE BATS HANGING UPSIDE DOWN,
SH-H-H! IT'S DAYTIME. DON'T MAKE A
SOUND!



Suggested Reading

**Stellaluna
Janell Cannon**

**The Secret Life of the
Little Brown Bat
Laurence Pringle**

**Bats
Gail Gibbons**