

Bat Social Studies

Objective

The students will explore the different measures bat preservationists are taking to save bats from becoming extinct.

Materials

- a book (*Bats! Strange and Wonderful* by Laurence Pringle, for example) or Web sites which discuss bat preservation. A good site for information is **Bat Conservation International** (The information is presented at an adult level, but there are good photographs to show the students.)
- large pieces of paper
- writing utensils, such as crayons, markers, and colored pencils
- “Protect the Bats” activity sheet (optional)

Procedure

1. Read the book or paraphrase the information given at the web site.
2. The main points to discuss are:
 - Some people are building bat houses.
 - Some people are making bridges, which are good roosting places for bats.
 - Some people are putting grill work on old mines and caves to keep people out, but still provide a safe place for bats.
 - some people have set up nature preserves to protect large groups of bats.
 - In addition, mention the things people should not do which can harm bats, i.e. hurting them, driving them from their homes, polluting, etc.
3. Allow the students to create posters with a “Save the Bats” message.
4. As an alternative, have the students complete the “Protect the Bats” activity sheet.

Extension Ideas

- Visit the **Bat Species** Web site to view photographs of different species of bats, and locate their homes on maps.
- Have a lesson on the continents. (Bats live on every continent, except Antarctica.)

Name: _____

Protect the Bats!

Here are 4 things people can do to help protect bats:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

