



The Kindergarten Chronicles

Robyn Markovic, RPDP

Beth Jacobsen, Goolsby Elementary

Batty About Kindergarten!



Southern Nevada
Regional Professional
Development Program

Volume 6, Issue 2

October 2010

www.rpd.net

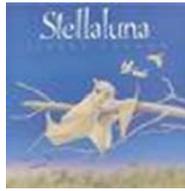


Bill Hanlon, Director

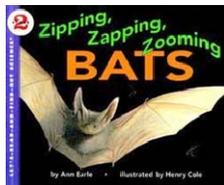
In the beginning of the kindergarten school year, you may be asking, "How do I teach science along with the necessary early literacy skills that are so vital for my emergent students?" October presents us with a perfect opportunity to incorporate many of our ELA benchmarks as well as teach science CEFs (ELA, 4.K.1, 7.K.3; Science: (K)1.4, (K)4.1, (K)4.2, (K)4.3, (K)4.5). Children are naturally curious about the "spooky" bat decorations they see during the Halloween season. Why not capitalize on such curiosity? There are several species of bats found in Nevada, so there is a great chance that our students may see bats flying at dusk, right in their own backyard.

The book *Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon lends itself well to a lesson on bats, and can also be utilized as a

way to compare and contrast literary and expository texts. There are many facts about bats that can be learned in



Stellaluna (bats sleep hanging upside down, they are nocturnal, they are not birds, etc.) but it is a fictional tale, so you can use this as a concrete lesson on how fiction differs from nonfiction.



Zooming Bats by Ann Earle. Children are captivated by the idea of

A great nonfiction book to use for this lesson is

Zipping, Zapping, Zooming Bats by Ann Earle. Children are captivated by the idea of

vampire bats and are relieved to learn that bats don't typically hurt people. Bats actually help us by feeding on insects and keeping insect populations in check. Our little learners will also learn some key vocabulary such as *nocturnal*, *mammal*, and *echolocation*, which quickly becomes a favorite!

There are many fun and interesting fiction and nonfiction titles that focus on bats. *Bats on the Beach* and *Bats at the Library* by Brian Lies (check out his educational and "batty" website at www.brianlies.com) and *Five Little Bats Flying in the Night* by Steve Metzger are more suggestions for fictional texts to share. *Bats* by Gail Gibbons, and *Amazing Bats* by Seymour Simon are also excellent nonfiction books for starting your bat study. Have fun as you explore the wonderful world of bats!

Batty Activities

Bat = Hand-Wing (Sci.: (K)1.5, (K)4.1) The scientific name for "bat" actually means "hand-wing." Kids are fascinated to learn that bats' wings have bones similar to our hands, and the wing membrane is like the skin between our fingers and toes. Your students can make a bat by using cut-outs of their handprints for the wings.



Label a Bat (ELA: 4.K.1; Sci., (K) 4.1) Incorporate the use of non-fiction text features by having your students label a simple illustration of a bat. You can find a

template for a bat at <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/mammals/bat/label/external/labelanswers.GIF>. You may want to make it easier by eliminating some of the words, or you can give the page already labeled, and simply discuss the different body parts, allowing your students to color the bat.

-at Words (ELA: 1.K.1) Use the simple CVC structure of the word "bat" to help your students create other "-at" words. This will help reinforce the skill of creating rhyming words, while introducing the concept of word families. This can be done at your ABC/Word Study center with

alphabet stamps, magnetic letters, or word frames.

Bat Vocab (ELA: K.1.4) Create a flipbook with your students. Ask your students to give you words related to your study of bats. Record these words, then create a master list of the words. Put them on strips that can be cut out and glued to a flipbook. Under the flap, students can illustrate their understanding of each vocabulary word.


Bats
Echolocation
Mammal
Nocturnal
Helpful

Stellaluna Thinking Map (ELA: 3.K.7, 3.K.A1) Create a double-

bubble map with your students comparing and contrasting bats and birds.

Share Your Fact (ELA: 5.K.1, 6.K.1, 6.K.5) Make a class book about bats. Give students a page with the sentence frame, "I like bats because _____." Fill in the sentence from their dictation. Afterward, children illustrate their bat fact, and the teacher will collect the pages and bind them in a class book. This way all children have the opportunity to share their newfound bat knowledge!

