

National Geographic Kids Reader: Bats

Notes for parents: reading this book with your child

- Before your child shares this book with you, look at the front cover and discuss what they know already about bats. Help them to remember any sightings or experiences where they have seen or learned about bats.
- Look at the pictures of the different bats together and read their names: *Vampire*, *fringed lip*, *wrinkled-lipped*, *Chiroptera*, *Amazonian*, *Gambian epauletted*, *Teenie tiny*, *bumblebee*, *Hondurian*. Talk about their features and appearance.
- Here are some ways you can help your child as they learn to read more complex information books:
 - Help children read new creature names and any unfamiliar words, e.g. *vampire*, *advantages*, *liquid*, *battitude*, *myths*, *misunderstandings*, *frequently*, *obstacles*, *appetite*, *mosquitoes*, *echolocation*, *ecosystem*. Discuss the new word meanings as you read, using the Bat word boxes and glossary to help.
 - Show your interest in the information and facts that your child reads.
 - Encourage them to talk about what they have read, answering simple questions that you ask them at the end of small sections.
 - Challenge your child to ask you questions based on their reading.
 - Encourage them to use the pictures to develop their understanding.
 - Give them lots of praise and encouragement as they tackle tricky words.
- Discuss how bats survive in the wild and what special features and behaviours they have (hanging upside down, using echolocation). Read the myths together and talk about why the truths are surprising.

Pronunciation guide: Chiroptera (*Ky-rop-tuh-ruh*), epauletted (*e-pull-et-ed*), echolocation (*echo-location*), ecosystem (*ee-koh-system*)