

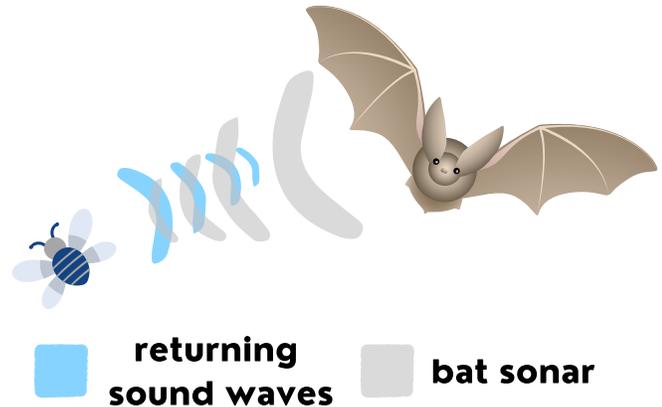
ECHOLOCATION IN ACTION

Materials:

- Blindfold
- (2) Participants

Goal:

- Learn how bats use echolocation to navigate!



Background:

- Bats use echolocation to navigate and find food in the dark. To echolocate, bats send out sound waves from their mouth or nose. When the sound waves hit an object they produce echoes. The echo bounces off the object and returns to the bats' ears.

Activity:

- Explain that bats use sound waves, echoes and their ears to navigate at night.
- Identify a person to be the bat! The person who is the bat will put on the blindfold and only use their hearing. No peeking!
- The other person will quietly stand near the blindfolded bat and either snap or clap. The bat will try to guess where the sound is coming from.
- Try making sounds from a few different locations. Keep track of the bat's guesses – how many did they get right?
- Switch partners and let them be the bat and see how they do! How easy or hard was it for you to figure out where the sound was coming from? Try this outside or in a quiet space and see which one makes hearing easier

Did you know... Bats are far from scary or evil! In fact, they are a very important part of the environment. Active at night, many bats feed on insects and act as a natural pest control. Bats are also very important pollinators in tropical and desert climates. They feed on the insects in the flowers as well as on the nectar and flower parts.



MAURY COUNTY PEOPLE, PARKS & NATURE
PARKS & RECREATION