

HAPPY
HALLOWEEN

BAT SPOOKLET

Lots of bat themed crafts, games & puzzles inside!



BAT CONSERVATION
IRELAND



IRISH BATS



1. Daubenton's bat. Paul Van Hoof
2. Common pipistrelle. Paul Van Hoof
3. Brown long-eared bat. Karen Healy
4. Natterer's bat. Paul Van Hoof
5. Soprano pipistrelle. Tina Aughney
6. Lesser Horseshoe bat. Paul Van Hoof
7. Nathusius' pipistrelle. Paul Van Hoof
8. Whiskered bat. Paul Van Hoof
9. Leisler's Bat. Paul Van Hoof



Find out more: www.batconservationireland.org



Bat Challenge 1

Can you help Ben the Brown Long-Eared Bat find his way back to the roost?



Bat Challenge 2

Make a bat mask

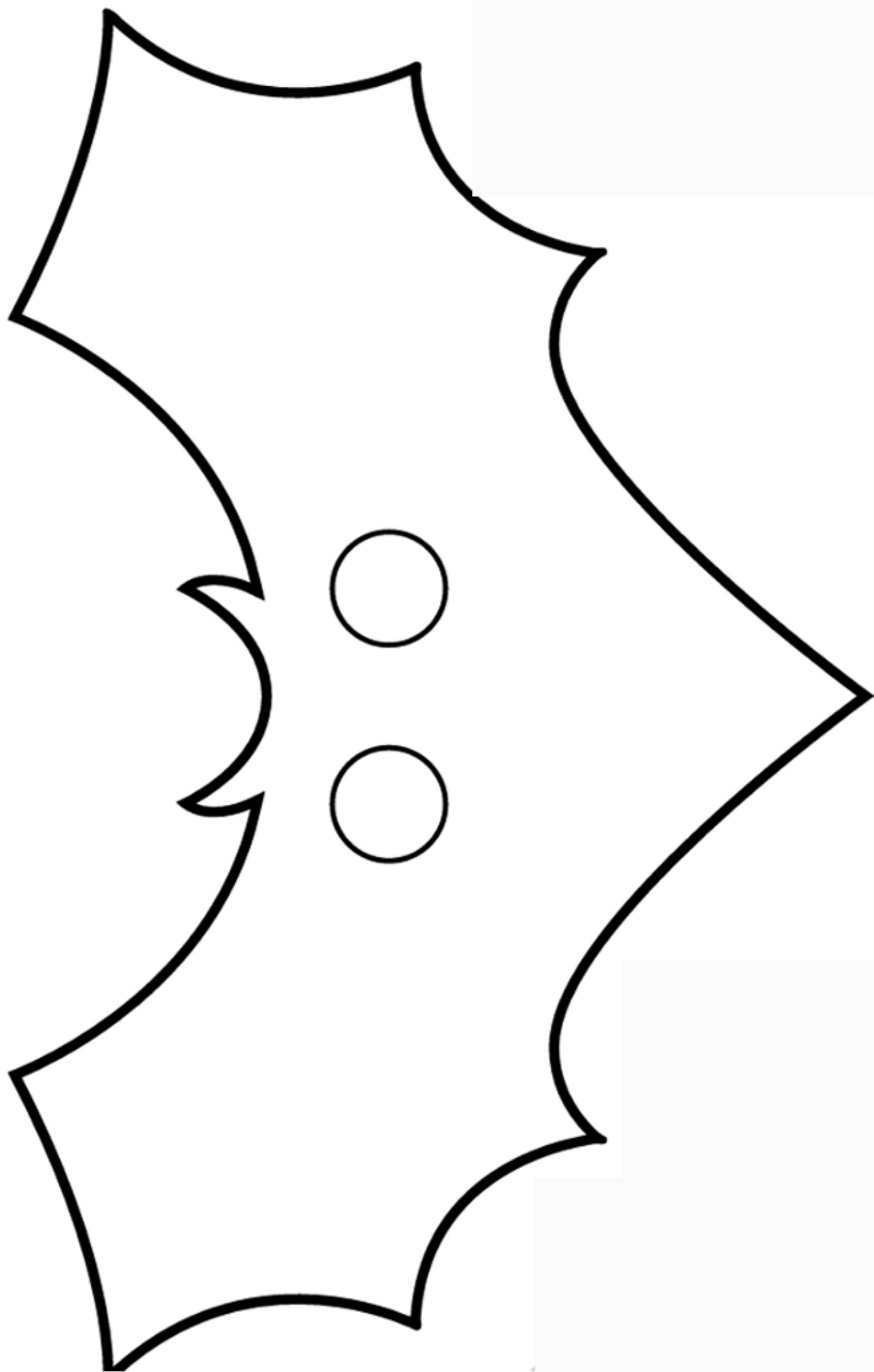
You will need:

Colouring pencils or markers
Recyclable sticky tape or glue
Scissors
Paper straw

Instructions:

1. Colour in the bat using your favourite colours
2. Carefully cut out the mask - ask a grown up to help with the eyes.
3. Use glue or sticky tape to stick a paper straw to the back of the mask.
4. Your mask is ready to go!





Bat Challenge 3

Go for a walk around your neighbourhood and look for the Halloween decorations in the grid.
Get 5 across, down or diagonal to win!

BATTY HALLOWEEN BINGO



Bat Challenge 4

Make a batty collage

You will need

Cereal box
Colouring pencils or markers
Sellotape or gluestick
Scissors
Coloured plastic packaging that can't be recycled
String, elastic band or wool

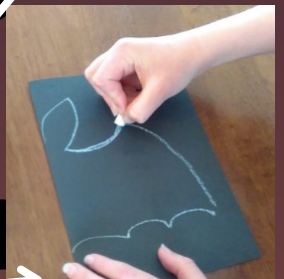
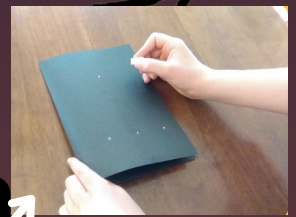
Instructions

1. Open the cereal box so that you have 2 x A4 pieces of card.
2. Fold the cards in half down the centre.
3. Using a colouring pencil mark out dots like this.
4. Draw an ear at one end of the bat (beside the fold line) and then use curved lines to join the dots.
5. Carefully cut the bat out on the marked side.

6. Using packaging and colours of your choice, glue them to the back of the bat and colour in the front with colouring pencils or markers.

7. Ask an adult to cut a small hole at the top of your creation so that you can attach the string.

8. Hang them up for Halloween or all year round!



Bat Challenge 5

Batty wordsearch



Find the words

Bat

Fly

Mammal

Echolocation

Night

Insects

Roost

Hibernate

Tree

Bat Challenge 6

Bake with bats



Bake some bat biscuits using our instructions at:
<https://learnaboutbats.com/fun-things-to-do/bat-biscuit-recipe/>



Making pancakes for Halloween breakfast? Try your hand at cutting out bat shapes using a toothpick - not as easy as it sounds!

Bat Challenge 7

Batty Moth Game

Equipment: Two blindfolds

Restrictions: None

Preparation: Find an area where there is enough space to create a large circle.

How to play: Organise the group into a large circle. Nominate 2 children to be bats and 4 children to be moths. The bats should wear the blindfolds. Once the blindfold has been put on, the moths should begin to shout 'Moth' continuously ! The bats should use their hearing to locate the moths. Once captured the moths should leave the circle. Repeat the game until everybody has had a go at being either a bat or a moth.



Bat Challenge 8



BAT CONSERVATION
IRELAND

I Spy Moonlight

Alder

Junk

Spider

Bat flying

K shapes

Tracks

Cat

Lake

Uneven surface

Dandelion

Moth

V shaped branch

Eyes

Nest

Wall

Fence

Oak tree

X marks the spot

Gate

Picnic bench

Yellow

Holly

Quiet spot

Z shapes

Ivy

Roost



I spy with my little eye, something that begins with...
You know how to play but have you ever played it at
night? A great family activity for Halloween night -
don't forget your torch!

Bat Challenge 9

Batty Scavenger Hunt

Doing some Halloween shopping or going to a Halloween festival or party?

Take some pictures of all the batty items you see and tag us on social media!



Bat Challenge 10

Halloween Bat Quiz



**QUIZ
NIGHT**

You will need:

Pen

Paper

Quiz prize: e.g. Halloween treats

The quiz questions below

Choose a sound on your phone to act as your team's quiz buzzer

e.g. Halloween song, spooky sound, or even a bat call!

Gather your family and form equal teams

Give your team a name

Answer the questions below without looking up the answers.

Tally up the points - team with the most points wins!

QUESTIONS

1. Are bats blind?
2. How many resident bat species are there in Ireland?
3. Do bats hibernate in the winter months?
4. What do Irish bats eat?
5. What is a baby bat called?
6. Are vampire bats real?
7. What is the largest bat in Ireland?
8. What is the smallest bat in Ireland?
9. How many midges can a single pipistrelle eat in one night?
10. What do Irish bats use to hunt for prey and navigate in the dark?

Halloween Story: Origins of Halloween

Halloween dates back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (summer's end), which marked the end of the harvest and the start of winter.

The Celts believed Samhain was the day in the year when the gap between our world and the spirit world was blurred, making it easier for the spirits of the dead to return.

To commemorate the day, they would build bonfires, wear costumes and tell fortunes. Lanterns were carved out of turnips and later pumpkins to provide light on the darkest nights.

Eventually, the Christian festival of "All Souls Day" or All-Hallows took over - the night before was then known as All Hallows Eve or Halloween.



Halloween Story: Bats and Halloween

During the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, bonfires were lit to ward off evil spirits. The light and heat from these bonfires attracted lots of insects.

Irish bats eat insects such as moths and midges. In late summer and throughout autumn, bats will gather at entrances of underground sites such as caves - this is known as swarming. In October, bats will eat as many insects as possible to build up a fat reserve for hibernation, which is essential for surviving winter when insects are scarce.

When the bonfires were lit, bats would gather to feed on the swarming insects near the fires, and their emergence from underground (most likely from a nearby cave) became a visible part of the festival.

The Celts believed the spirits of the dead rose during Samhain, and because bats emerged from the earth, they became associated with these returning spirits.



Halloween Story: Bats and Halloween

Vampire bats are real and they aren't as scary as the stories would have you believe!

Check out this cool fact sheet from National Geographic

Kids:

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/facts/vampire-bat>

Bats and Vampires?

Bram Stoker was an Irish novelist. Growing up in Ireland, it's likely he celebrated Halloween and heard all the myths about bats, spirits and bonfires.

In his famous 1897 novel, Count Dracula transforms into a bat. This idea then appeared in horror movies, stories, decorations, and costumes to this day, further linking bats to Halloween.





**We now know the real story of bats and
Halloween.**

**The only scary thing about bats is the
thought of living in a world without them!**

