

Glossary

Term	Pronunciation	Definition
Adapt	uh-DAPT	To change to meet new or special needs; a species alters or adjusts itself to better survive in its environment
Adaptation	ah-dapt-TAY-shun	An inherited change by which a species or individual improves its condition in relation to its environment
Aerial insectivore	AIR-ee-al in-SECT-tih-vore	Any animal that chases or catches insect prey in flight (see also "foliage gleaner")
Aerodynamic	air-oh-dye-NAM-ick	Having a body shape designed for flying
Agave	ah-GAH-vay	A low-growing tropical American plant, such as the century plant, related to the lily and having fleshy leaves and a tall stalk of flowers; some species are used for their valuable fibers (for example, sisal) or for their fermented pulp which is used to make tequila liquor
Ambient	AM-bee-ent	surrounding; ambient temperature is recorded in the open air of a shaded location
Aquatic	ah-KWA-tick	Living or active in or on water
Aragonite	uh-RA-guh-nite	A cave mineral, which often forms needle-like crystals
Asymptomatic	ay-sim-toe-MAT-tick	Showing no signs of a disease, disorder or other condition
Bachelor	BATCH-el-or	A young male animal that doesn't breed; in bats, bachelor colonies contain both non-breeding males and females
Baobab	BAY-oh-bab	A tree with a stout trunk up to 30 feet in diameter, with large, hanging flowers that are white and a hard-shelled fleshy fruit; found in tropical African savannas and provides food or shelter for many kinds of animals
Bat detector	BAT dee-TECK-tor	An electronic instrument used by bat researchers that translates the high-frequency echolocation call of bats into sounds that can be heard by humans
Bat excluder	BAT ex-CLUE-der	A person who specializes in removing colonies of bats from human buildings. (See also "Bat Rescuer")
Bat house	BAT HOUSE	A structure that is built to provide roosting habitat for bats; usually made from wood, having 3/4 inch wide roosting spaces inside, and an open bottom
Bat Rescuer	BAT RES-cu-er	A person who removes individual bats from human buildings, and also works to rehabilitate and release sick or injured bats. (See also "Bat Excluder")
Cacti; singular Cactus	CACK-tie	A large group of plants native to arid regions of the New World that have thick, fleshy, often prickly stems that function as leaves.
Calcar	CAL-car	A projection of cartilage that extends from the ankle of a bat along the edge of the tail membrane towards the tail; provides support during aerial turns
Calcite	KAL-site	A common crystalline form of calcium carbonate.
Canine	CAY-nine	The tallest, pointed tooth located between the front teeth (incisors) and the shorter and broader pre-molars
Capacity	kuh-PAS-i-tee	The maximum amount or number that can be received or contained; cubic contents; volume:
Canopy	CAN-oh-pee	High, interlocking branches of large trees, as in a rain forest
Carnivore	CAR-nih-VORE	An animal which eats meat
Carnivorous	Car-NIH-ver-ess	Meat-eating
Cartilage	CAR-tih-laj	A tough, white tissue that attaches to the surfaces of bones where a bone connects with a tendon or where two bones meet

Cathedral	kuh-THEE-druh-l	Something that resembles a cathedral, as in grandeur or authority
Cave Fish	CAVE FISH	Fish found in caves and adapted to life in the dark, notably lacking eyes and pigmentation. Only three species of cave fish lack eyes completely, but several others have useless eyes. Only found in caves that have streams running into them.
Cave Coral	CAVE COR-al	Also known as "popcorn"; small knobby clusters formed by seeping water
Cave Flower, gypsum flower	CAVE FLOW-er	White gypsum " Cave Flowers " radiate outward from a cave wall. Cave Flowers can form when water, rich with minerals such as sulfate, seeps from the walls
Cave Pearl	CAVE PEARL	Small, almost spherical concretion of calcite that is formed in a pool of water in a cave and is not attached to the surface on which it forms
Chaparral	SHAP-ah-RAL	A scrubland habitat of dense, spiny, evergreen shrubs; characterized by mild, rainy winters and long, hot, dry summers
Chiroptera	k'eye-ROP-ter-ah	Taxonomic order containing all bats, the only flying mammals; from the Latin: "Chiro-" meaning hand-like and "-ptera" meaning wing
Chiropteran Colony	k'eye-ROP-ter-en COL-oh-nee	Having to do with bats A group of the same kind of animals or plants living or growing together
Column	KOL-em	When a stalactite and a stalagmite grow together from the floor to the ceiling
Community	cah-MEW-nit-tee	All the organisms inhabiting a restricted area, such as a field, pond, or cave
Consumer	con-SOO-mer	An organism that feeds on other organisms or organic matter
Corpses	KORPS	A dead body, usually of a human being
Crepuscular	kree-PUS-queh-lar	Becoming active at twilight, near sunset or sunrise
Deciduous	dee-SID-you-us	A type of tree that loses its leaves annually, usually in the fall
Decomposer	DEE-com-PO-zer	An organism, especially bacteria or fungi, which breaks down non-living organic matter such as corpses, plant material, and the wastes of living organisms
Detritus	de-TRI-tus	Rock in small particles or other material broken away from a mass, as by the action of water or glacial ice
Detritivore	dee-TRIT-ih-vore	A special class of consumers, such as bacteria and fungi, that derives energy from organic wastes and dead organisms
Disperse	dis-PURSE	To scatter in various directions as in scattering seeds away from a parent plant
Diurnal	dye-UR-nal	To be active during the day (see also "Nocturnal")
Diverse	DIE-verse	Varied; of many types or kinds
Diversity	die-VERSE-ih-tee	Having a variety of different types; being distinct or unlike in kind, form, and / or function
Drapery	DRA-puh-ree	A speleothem formed when water deposits calcite in thin sheets that hang in delicate folds
Durian	DUR-ee-en	A tree found in southeastern Asia that bears fruit with a hard, prickly rind and soft, stinky yet pleasant-tasting pulp; also the name of the fruit.
Echidna	eh-KID-nah	A burrowing, egg-laying mammal with a spiny coat, slender snout, and sticky tongue for catching insects; found in Australia, Tasmania, and New Guinea; also known as the spiny anteater
Echolocate	ECK-coh-LOW-kate	The ability of an animal (mostly bats, porpoises, or whales) to find its way by listening to the echoes of sounds it produces
Echolocation	ECK-coh-Low-CAY-shun	The process by which an animal orients itself by listening to the echoes of the sounds that it has produced.

Ecologist	ee-CALL-oh-jist	A person who studies the relationships between living organisms and their environments
Ecosystem	EE-coh-SIS-tem	All the interacting organisms of a community and their non-living surroundings regarded as a unit
Ecotourism	ee-coh-TOOR-iz-um	The business of providing trips, vacations, and / or sight-seeing excursions to view wildlife and nature
Ectothermic	EK-tuh-THERM-ick	Cold-blooded; warming up the body by an external source of heat (such as the sun). See also "Endothermic"
Emerge	ee-MERJ	For bats, to leave a cave or other roost, usually at dusk
Emergence	ee-MER-jens	For bats, the act of leaving a cave or other roost, usually at dusk
Endangered	en-DANE-jurd	Threatened with extinction. Animals or plants that are at risk of going extinct
Endothermic	EN-doe-THERM-ick	Warm-blooded; warming up the body by an internal source of heat - energy from food. See also "Ectothermic"
Environment	en-VIE-ron-ment	The resources such as air, water, minerals, and living communities that surround and affect an organism, especially those that contribute to its growth and survival
Evolution	EV-oh-LOO-shun	Changes in the characteristics of a plant or animal species, over generations of time, that usually help them adapt to better survive the conditions where they live
Extinct	ex-STINGKT	No longer existing, as when the last individual of a plant or animal species dies
Extinction	ex-STINGKT-shun	The process of a species dying out to the point where no more are left
Fertilize	FUR-till-eyez	To provide soil with nutrients to aid the growth of plants
Fertilizer	FUR-till-eyez-er	Something that provides soil with nutrients to aid the growth of plants
Flowstone	FLOW-stone	Resembling frozen waterfalls, form when water flows down walls, over floors and older formations, building up sheets of calcite like icing on a cake.
Flying Fox	FLY-ing FOX	A fruit-eating bat having a dog-like face and ears; of the genus Pteropus, or the taxonomic sub-order Megachiroptera; found mostly in tropical Africa, Asia, Australia, or the South Pacific
Foliage	FOLE-ladj	Plant leaves as a whole; a cluster of leaves
Foliage Gleaning	FOLE-ladj GLEEN-ing	To hunt insects by scanning plants
Food chain	FOOD chain	A series of organisms, each eating or decomposing the preceding one, as when an insect eats a plant and then is eaten by a bat
Forage	FOR-age	To look for food
Forearm	FOR-arm	The part of a mammal's arm extending from the wrist to the elbow; in bats, measurements of its length are often used to identify one species from another
Free-Tailed	FREE-taled	A bat with a tail that is not attached to the patagium (wing membrane)
Frequency	FREE-quen-see	The amount of repetition of a cycle (such as a wave of sound) within a specified time period
Frigid	FRIJ-id	Very cold in temperature
Frugivore	FROO-gah-VORE	An animal which eats fruit
Frugivorous	Froo-GIVE-ver-ess	Fruit-eating
Fungal	FUN-gul	Pertaining to a fungus
Fungus; plural Fungi	FUN-gus	A plant-like organism, lacking chlorophyll, which obtains nutrients and energy by secreting enzymes that break down organic matter in living or dead organisms (See also "Detritivore")
Gestation	je-STAY-shun	The period of time that a baby is carried in the uterus

Guano	GWA-noh	Animal dropping or excrement, usually composed of seabird or bat droppings harvested and sold as fertilizer from islands where large numbers of birds breed or from caves where large numbers of bats roost
Habitat	HAB-ih-tat	The environment in which an organism or population of plants or animals lives; the normal kind of location inhabited by a plant or animal
Harmonize	HAR-muh-nize	
Helictites	HEE-lick-tites	Small twisted structures projecting from ceilings, walls and the floor of caves that seem to defy the laws of gravity. Formed by seeping water, they project at all angles.
Herbivore	ERB-ih-vore	An organism that eats plants, such as a rabbit or a cow
Hibernaculum	HIGH-bur-NACK-you-lum	A shelter for a hibernating animal, usually a cave or mine where bats hibernate in winter; plural Hibernacula
Hibernate	HIGH-bur-nate	To pass the winter in a deep sleep in which the metabolism is extremely slow (see also "hibernation")
Hibernation	High-bur-NAY-shun	The act of passing the winter in a dormant state in which the metabolism is slowed to a tiny fraction of normal (see also "hibernate")
High Frequency	HIGH FREE-quen-see	A sound that is above the level of human hearing (see also "ultrasonic")
Histoplasmosis	HIST-toh-plaz-MOH-sis	A fungus that infects human lungs, causing respiratory illness; results from breathing spores of a certain fungus
Homeothermic	ho-MEE-oh-THUR-mick	Maintaining a nearly constant and warm body temperature regardless of environmental temperature; warm-blooded
Hypothesis	high-POTH-eh-sis	A statement considered to be true for the purpose of investigation or argument, and must be stated in a manner that can be tested and that could be proven false
Insectivore	in-SECK-tih-vore	Any animal that feeds mostly on insects
Kapok	KAY-pock	A silky fiber obtained from the seed pods of the silk-cotton tree; used for insulation and as padding in mattresses, pillows, and life preservers
Karst	CARst	An area or rock made of limestone in which erosion has produced cracks, sinkholes, or underground cavities such as caves
Keystone species	KEY-stone SPEE-seez	A central or supporting element in a habitat or ecosystem; an organism upon which numerous other plants and / or animals rely for food, shelter, growth, development and / or reproduction
Kilohertz	KILL-oh-hurts	A unit used to measure sounds; a thousand waves of sound (or echolocation calls) emitted in a second equals one kilohertz; while human sounds are mostly low (less than 1000 waves of sound per second, most bat sounds are high frequency (more than 2000 waves per second)
Larva; plural larvae	LAR-vuh	The wingless, often worm-like, juvenile or sexually immature forms of insects which undergo metamorphosis to become adults (as when a caterpillar becomes a butterfly)
Larynx	LARE-inks	The upper part of the respiratory tract that includes the vocal chords that enable vocalizations
Lift	LIFT	The force that keeps a flying animal (or machine) in the air; created by the upward motion of the bat's wings. See also "thrust"
Mammal	MAM-al	A class of vertebrate animals that includes more than 4,000 species, distinguished by self-regulating body temperature, hair, and in the females, mammary glands (breasts) to nurse their young
Mammary glands	MAM-uh-ree GLANDS	Glands that produce milk in female mammals

Massacred	MAS-sa-cred	Unnecessary, indiscriminate killing, especially in a large number
Maternity Colony	muh-TUR-ni-ty KOL-uh-nee	A special colony established by female bats in which to birth and raise the young
Maternity roost	mah-TURN-ih-tee ROOST	A location where mother bats go to give birth and nurse and care for young
Matriarch	MAY-tree-ark	A female who rules or dominates her family and descendants
Meditated	MED-uh-tay-ted	To think contemplatively; reflect
Megabat	MEG-ah-bat	see "Megachiroptera"
Megachiroptera	MEG-ah-k'eye-ROP-ter-ah	A suborder of bats containing about 173 species that have claws on both their thumbs and second fingers, also distinguished by large eyes, fox- or dog-like faces, and simple rounded ears; found only in the Old World tropics; called "megabats" or "flying foxes" (See also Microchiroptera)
Membrane	MEM-brain	A thin, flexible layer of tissue covering surfaces, or separating of connecting regions, structures or organs of an animal of plant, including the two layers of skin from which bat wings are made
Metabolism	meh-TAB-oh-LIZ-um	The combination of chemical and physical processes required to maintain life, usually progressing most rapidly at higher body temperatures, as indicated by a rapid heart rate or fast breathing
Metacarpal	met-ah-CAR-pull	The five bones between the fingers and the wrist in the hand of a person, in the wing of a bat, or in the forelimb of an animal
Microbat	MY-crow-BAT	see "Microchiroptera"
Microchiroptera	MY-crow-k'eye-ROP-ter-ah	A suborder of bats containing about 813 species that have claws only on their thumbs, also distinguished by often complex facial structures and ears with a large tragus; found worldwide, also called "microbats. See also "Megachiroptera"
Migrate	My-grate	To change location periodically, especially to move seasonally from one region to another
Migration	My-GRAY-shun	The act of changing location, especially seasonally
Mist Net	MIST net	A very finely threaded net that is stretched between two poles to capture bats or birds
Myotis sodalis	my-OH-tis soh-DAL-is	Scientific name of the Indiana bat
Natural resources	NAT-ur-al REE-sore-suhs	Natural products that have value, such as timber, fresh water, or minerals
Navigate	NAV-vih-gate	To make one's way across a defined area; to travel
Nectar	NECK-tar	A sweet liquid secreted by most flowers to attract animal pollinators
Nectarivore	NECK-ter-ah-VORE	An animal that eats nectar (liquid found in flowers)
New World	NEW world	The western hemisphere; the region of the planet including North America, Central America, and South America, and nearby islands
Nocturnal	nock-TURN-ahl	Active only at night or having flowers that open only at night
Nose Leaf	NOSE leef	A triangular projection of flesh found on the noses of some Microchiropteran bat species, appears to function in directing echolocation signals emitted through the nose
Nursery colony	NUR-sir-ee COL-oh-nee	A group of animals that comes together to rear young
Old World	OLD world	The eastern hemisphere; the region of the planet including Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and the Pacific and Indian Ocean islands
Omnivore	OM-nih-VORE	An organism that eats both plants and meat, such as a bear or coati
Parasite	PAIR-ih-site	An organism that feed on another organism while contributing nothing to the survival of its host; for example, fleas and ticks

Patagium	puh-TAY-jee-um	The wing membrane; a very strong layer of skin stretched across a bat's forearms and hands to form wings See also "Uropatagium"
Pesticide	PES-tih-side	A chemical used to kill animals, mostly insects, often harmful to humans as well
Phalanges	fah-LAN-geez	The long bones of the fingers or toes
Piper	PIE-per	A plant of the pepper family that produces fruit on uprights or hanging stalks
Piscivore	PISK-kah-vore	An animal which eats mainly fish
Plantain	plan-TAIN	A large tropical plant resembling a banana and bearing similar edible fruit
Pollen	PAUL-en	The fine powder-like material produced by the anthers of flowering plants that provides the source of the male elements (gametes) in fertilization
Pollinate	PAUL-en-ate	To carry pollen from male flowers to female flowers or to male and female parts of a single flower, either on the same plant or on different plants of the same species
Pollination	pol-uh-NA-shun	The transfer of pollen from one flower to another; this fertilized the flower
Pollinator	PAUL-en-ate-or	An animal that pollinates plants
Predator	PRED-ah-tore	An animal that lives by catching and eating other animals
Prey	PRAY	A creature hunted or caught for food
Primary consumer	PR'EYE-mare-ee pro-DOO-sir	Organisms that eat plants or algae, such as herbivores
Primary producer	TARE-oh-PO-did-day	Any organism that is capable of manufacturing its own food from inorganic materials, usually accomplished by plants that create new energy from a combination of inorganic materials and sunlight in a process known as photosynthesis
Pulses	PUHL-ses	The short sound patterns that bats make to echolocate
Pup	PUP	A baby or young bat
Rabies	RAY-beez	A disease caused by a virus; almost always fatal, usually transmitted by bites from mammals or through contact with infected saliva and / or nervous tissue; can be prevented by prompt vaccination
Rain Forest	RAIN fore-est	A dense, usually tropical, evergreen forest which receives heavy rainfall, more than 255 cm (100 inches) per year; generally found near the equator
Range	RANGE	The general (large-scale) area of the world where an animal is found. (See also "Habitat")
Rimstone Dams	RIM-stone dams	Steplike terraces along streams and on cave floors that enclose pools of water
Roost	ROOST	A place where a flying animal, usually a bird or bat, can sleep or rest, usually by perching or hanging
Saguaro	sah-WAR-oh	An extremely large cactus, three to twelve meters (10 to 40 feet) tall, of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico, with upward curving branches, white flowers, and red fruit
Sanctuaries	SANGK-choo-ER-ee	Immunity, as to arrest, afforded by refuge in any place providing refuge or asylum. A tract of land where wildlife can breed and take refuge in safety from hunters
Sanguivore	SAN-gua-VORE	An animal which eats mainly blood
Second-level consumer	SEK-und LEV-ul kuhn-SOO-mer	In a food chain, the organism, a carnivore, which eats herbivores
Seed dispersal	SEED dis-PER-sal	The process of scattering seeds away from the parent plant, usually by an animal that eats the fruit and thus increases the probability that the seed will grow into a new plant

Shields	SHEELDS	Flat semi-circular calcite sheets formed by water seeping from a thin crack. Stalactites and draperies commonly decorate the edges of these rare speleothems
Soda Straws	SOH-duh STRAWS	Thin hollow tubes that grow from the ceiling of caves as water runs down inside them and deposits rings of calcite at their tips
Sonar	SO-nar	A system by which transmitted sound waves and their echoes are used to locate unseen objects by animals that emit high frequency sounds from their mouths or noses; acronym for So(und) Na(vigation) R (anging)
Species	SPEE-seez	A group of related organisms that can mate and produce healthy offspring, typically similar in appearance
Speleothem	SPEE-lee-OH-them	Any mineral deposit or formation found in caves.
Spelunker	spi-LUNGK-er	A person whose hobby is exploring caves.
Stalactite	stuh-LACK-tite	An icicle like deposit that grows down from the cave ceiling. Stalactites form as calcite is deposited around the outside of soda straws after the centers of soda straws become plugged
Stalagmite	stuh-LAG-mite	Speleothems that grow up from the floor; usually formed by dripping water from stalactites above. They are more rounded on top than stalactites
Tail membrane	TAIL MEM-brain	The area of skin which joins the legs and / or tail of a bat
Taxonomy	tax-ON-ah-mee	The science of classifying organisms into categories of related kinds
Temperate	TEM-prit, or TEM-per-it	Neither extremely hot nor cold in climate, relatively mild; either of two middle-latitude zones of the earth lying between 23 1/2 and 66 1/2 degrees north and south of the equator
Terrestrial	tair-REST-tree-al	Of the earth or its land-dwelling inhabitants, growing or living on land
Terrestrial Acquisition	tuh-RES-tree-uhl AK-wi-ZISH-uhn	To hunt insects by scanning the ground while flying low
Third level consumer	THIRD LEV-ul kuhn-SOO-mer	In a food chain, a carnivore that eats another carnivore that ate a primary consumer
Thrust	THRUHST	The force that propels a flying animal (or machine) in the desired direction; created by the downward motion of the bat's wings. (See also "Lift")
Top level carnivore	top LEV-el CAR-ni-vore	In a food chain, a meat-eating organism that eats other meat-eaters that have eaten primary or second level or third level consumers
Torpor	TOR-pur	Mental or physical inactivity or sluggishness, resulting from lowered body temperature at levels part way between normally active and hibernation
Tragus	TRAY-gus	A tiny finger-like projection of skin-covered cartilage in front of a bat's ear
Trophic level	TROH-fick LEV-all	A feeding level in a food chain or food pyramid characterized by organisms that occupy a similar functional position as producers or consumers in an ecosystem
Ultrasonic	UHL-trah-SAWN-ick	Sound frequencies above the range that human ears can hear, or above approximately 20,000 cycles per second (20 kilohertz)
Uropatagium	YOOR-uh-puh-TAY-jee-um	The scientific term for "tail membrane;" skin connecting a bat's tail to its patagium (wing membrane). (See also "tail membrane")
Vaulted	VAHL-tid	Resembling an arched roof
Wingspan	WEENG-span	The distance between the tips of a bat's wings, across its body