



Bats of Indiana

Playing Card Activities

Materials: Multiple copies of bat card pages (front and back), preferably on cover stock ● Crayons, colored pencils or markers and scissors ● laminate (optional)

Have each student color and cut out a set of cards. If possible, laminate the cards. Following are some card game suggestions to help familiarize students with characteristics of the different types of bats found in Indiana.

Bat Rummy

Several students can play this game using multiple sets of bat cards. Each player gets 5 cards to start; remaining cards should be placed in the middle, face down, with the top card face up beside the deck forming the discard pile. The object of the game is to dispose of all your cards before anyone else. Players take turns. When it is your turn, you must take one card from the middle: either one from the top of the deck, or the one on top of the discard pile. You should then lay down (face up) groups of cards you have in your hand (if any); anytime you have more than one card of any bat, that is considered a group. You then must discard one card in the discard pile and your turn is over. On future turns, you may add to the groups of cards you have in front of you, but you may not add to anyone else's groups. The player who discards all cards first wins.

Bat Trivia

Two or more teams can play this game using one set (or more) of bat cards. Team #1 draws a card from the pile. Team #2 picks a category (diet, reproduction, summer roost, winter habit, status, or fascinating fact). Team #1 reads the category information from the back of the card and Team #2 must determine which bat it is. If they know, they receive 5 points and get another turn. If they don't know, they may ask to have another category read. If they then get the answer, they receive 2 points, but do NOT get another turn. Teams play to a pre-determined point value or for a specified amount of time, and the team with the most points wins. Once students are knowledgeable, make the game harder by forbidding use of the fascinating fact in the game, or by allowing only 1 point if the fascinating fact is used to determine the type of bat.





Go Bat! (Variation on Go Fish!)

The object of this game is to collect books, or six cards of the same type of bat, by asking other players for cards you think they might have. The player who collects the most books wins. Three to six students can play this game with multiple sets of bat cards. Deal the cards until all players have the same number (or close to the same number) of cards. One player starts by asking any other player for a particular type of bat. For example, player #1 might say "Mary, do you have any Hoary Bats?" The player doing the asking must always have at least one of the bat he/she is asking for, and must show it as proof. If Mary has any Hoary Bats, she must give ALL of them to player #1. Player #1 then gets another turn, and asks someone else for a type of bat. This continues until the player asks someone for a type of bat which they don't have. That person then says "Go Bat!" and it becomes his or her turn. Any books formed should be put down face up as they are formed. When someone runs out of cards, the game is over, and the person with the most books wins.



BIG BROWN BAT



Status: Common

Diet: Mostly beetles, flying ants, stinkbugs, mayflies, stoneflies, caddisflies, brown lacewings

Foraging: Some use the same feeding ground each night

Summer Roost: Hollow trees, man-made structures

Winter Habit: hibernate in caves/mines or remain in summer roosts with stable temperatures

Reproduction: Twins early June

Size/Appearance: 11-23 grams, 32-35 cm wing span

Fascinating Fact: Females are larger than males and can force them out of prime roosting sites

SILVER-HAIRED BAT



Status: Relatively rare

Diet: moths, true bugs, flies, termites, beetles

Foraging: Over woodland ponds and streams

Summer Roost: loose tree bark, open buildings

Winter Habit: hibernate in protected shelters like rock crevices or buildings

Reproduction: Twins early summer

Size/Appearance: 8-11 grams, 27-32 cm wingspan

Fascinating Fact: One of the slowest flying bats in North America

HOARY BAT



Status: Uncommon

Diet: primarily moths, beetles, stinkbugs, rarely small rodents and other bats

Foraging: warm winter afternoons

Summer Roost: tree foliage at edge of clearings

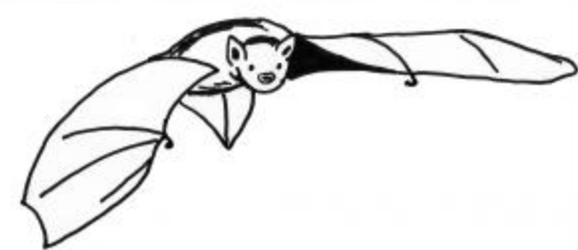
Winter Roost: northern populations migrate; may wander into caves in late summer

Reproduction: Twins (early summer) cling to mother's fur

Size/Appearance: 17-35 grams, 38-41 cm wing span, heavily furred

Fascinating Fact: Males spend summer west of Rockies, females east of Rockies

GRAY BAT



Status: Endangered

Diet: stoneflies, caddisflies, mayflies, Asiatic oak weevils, true flies, beetles

Foraging: Over rivers and lakes

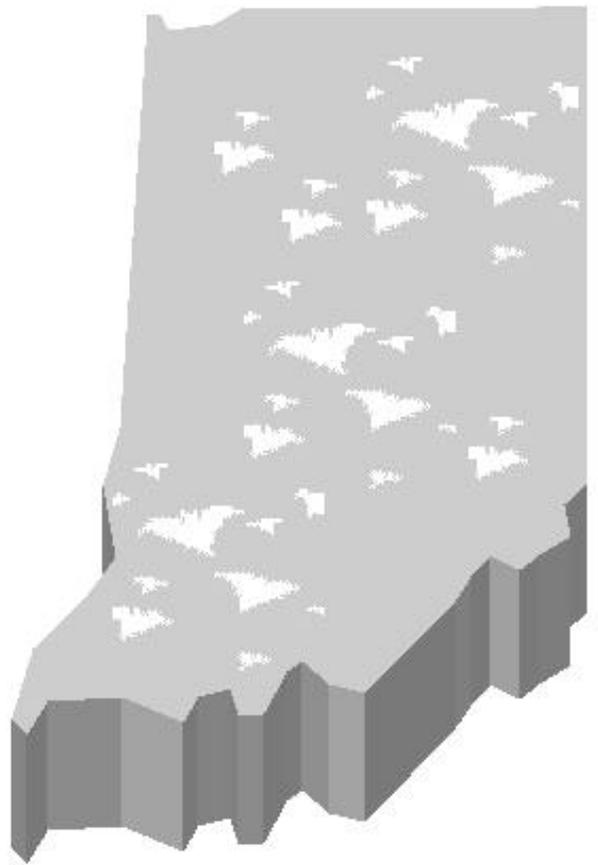
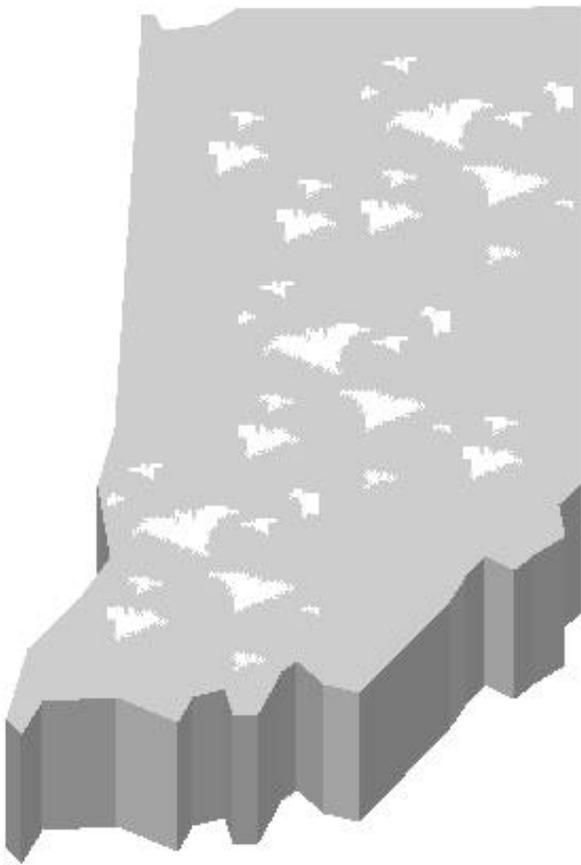
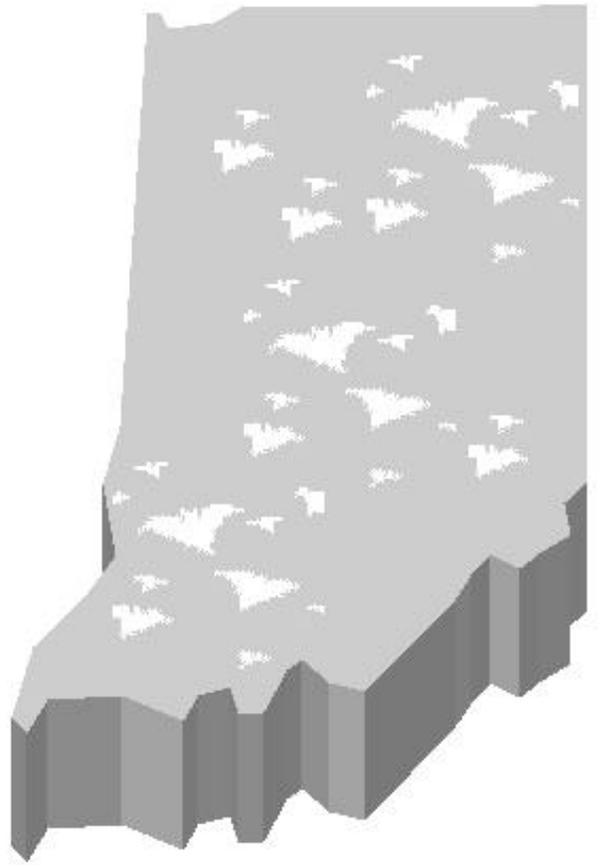
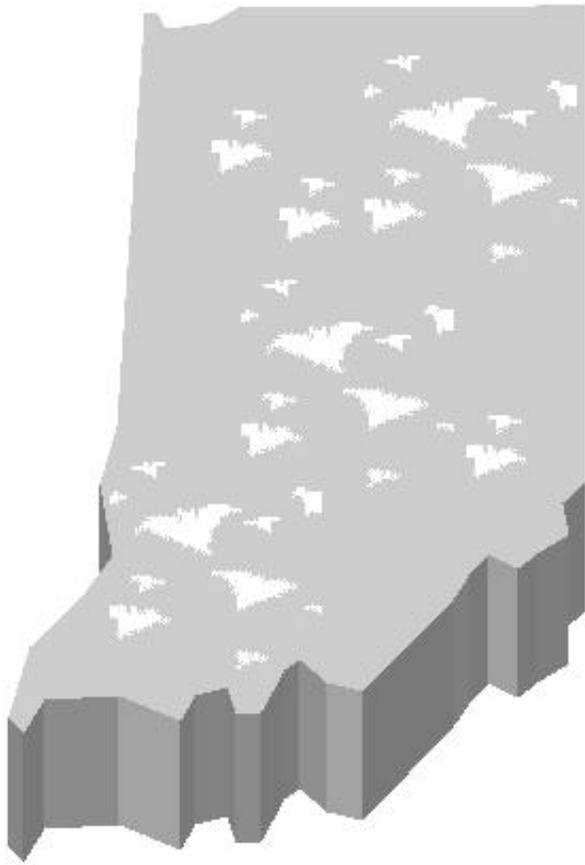
Summer Roost: Maternity colonies in caves that trap warm air

Winter Habit: Hibernate in deep vertical caves with large rooms that trap cold air

Reproduction: One pup late spring

Size/Appearance: 8-11 grams, 27-30 cm wingspan

Fascinating Fact: 95% hibernate in only eight caves



SOUTHEASTERN BAT



Status: Rare, endangered listing has been proposed

Diet: unknown - probably aquatic insects

Foraging: close to surface of water

Summer Roost: Maternity colonies in caves or buildings

Winter Habit: small groups at outdoor sites

Reproduction: Twins in spring

Size/Appearance: 5-8 grams, 24-27 cm wingspan

Fascinating Fact: the only bat of the genus *Myotis* that produces twins

LITTLE BROWN BAT



Status: Common

Diet: gnats, moths, true bugs, caddisflies, beetles

Foraging: prefers over water

Summer Roost: Hot buildings for large nursery colonies

Winter Habit: hibernates in caves or mines

Reproduction: One pup in spring or early summer

Size/Appearance: 7-14 grams, 22-27 wingspan

Fascinating Fact: captures insects with wing tip and scoops into mouth with help of tail.

INDIANA BAT



Status: Endangered

Diet: moths, beetles, flies, caddisflies, ants, stoneflies, true bugs

Foraging: river and lake shorelines and upland forests near roosts

Summer Roost: maternity roosts under loose tree bark in stream-side habitat

Winter Habit: hibernate in dense clusters in caves

Reproduction: One pup in June

Size/Appearance: 7-8 grams, 24-27 wingspan

Fascinating Fact: 85% hibernate in only nine locations

RAFINESQUE'S BIG-EARED BAT



Status: Uncommon

Diet: moths and other night-flying insects

Foraging: late evening (rather than twilight)

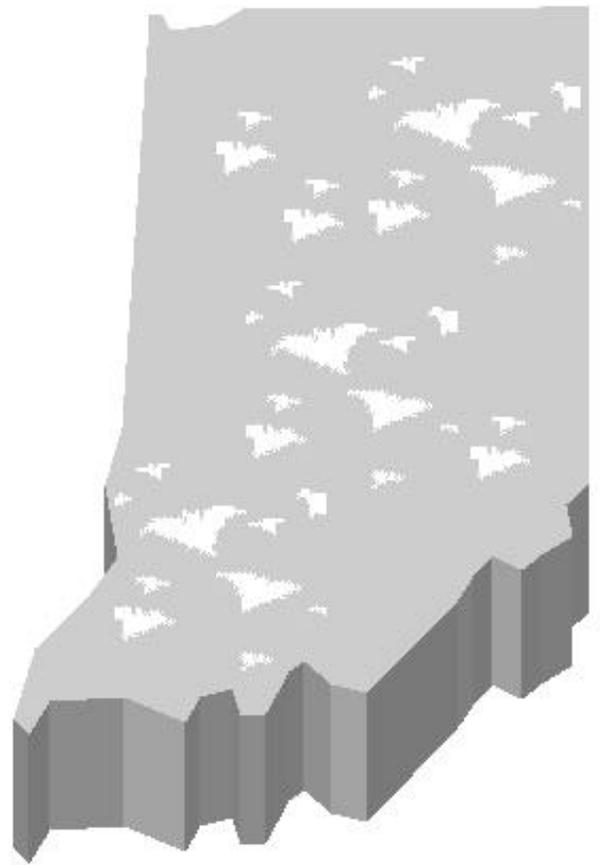
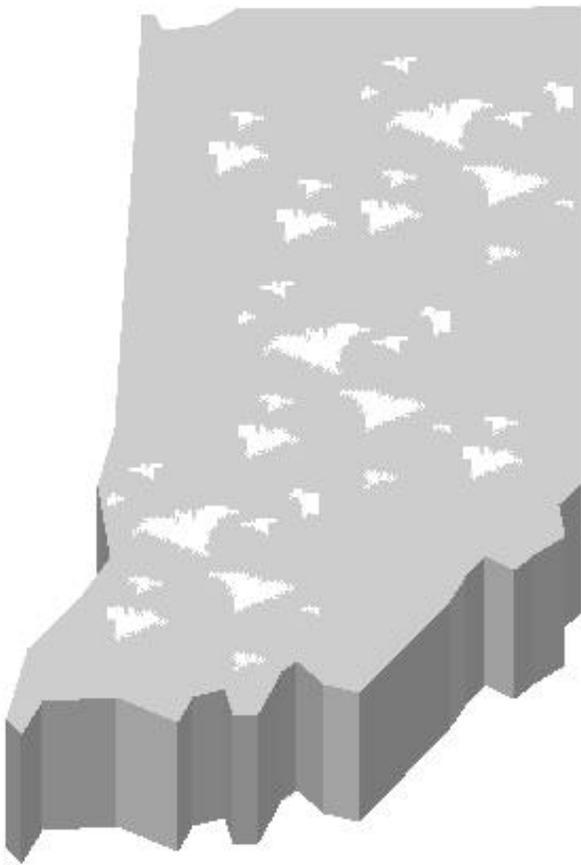
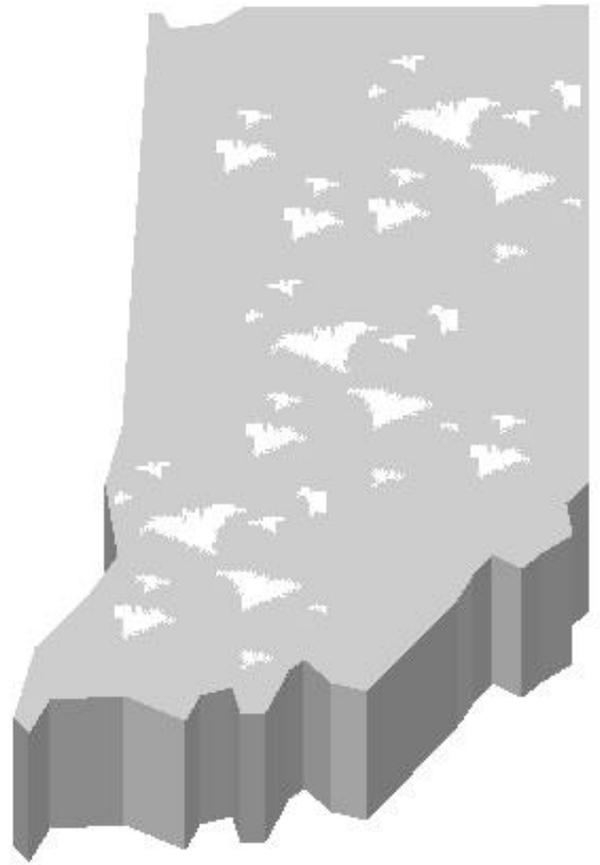
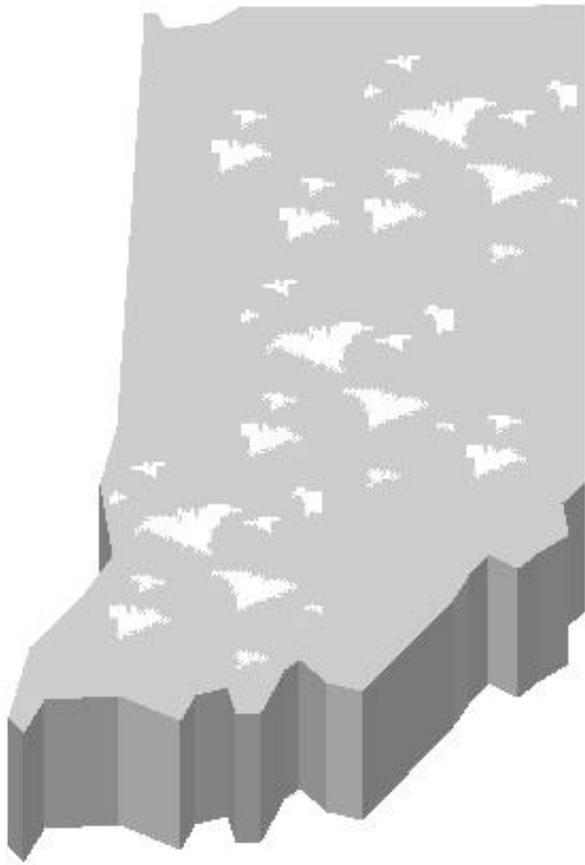
Summer Roost: maternity colonies in abandoned buildings

Winter Habit: hibernates in caves, mines, wells cisterns

Reproduction: one pup late spring

Size/Appearance: 8-14 grams, 26-30 cm wingspan

Fascinating Fact: They roll their ears up at rest. The rolled ears sit at the base of their neck like ram's horns.



EASTERN PIPISTRELLE BAT



Status: Common

Diet: tiny flies, moths, beetles, wasps, ants
Foraging: over waterways and around forests edges

Summer Roost: In trees, sometimes caves at night

Winter Habit: hibernates in caves, mines and rock crevices

Reproduction: Twins late spring or early summer

Size/Appearance: 5-8 grams, 21-26 cm wingspan

Fascinating Fact: Individual bats often hibernate in the exact same spot in a cave every year

NORTHERN LONG- EARED BAT



Status: Uncommon

Diet: various flies, moths, beetles, spiders, true bugs, caddisflies

Foraging: On forested hillsides and ridges

Summer Roost: daytime in buildings or under tree bark, nights in caves

Winter Habit: hibernates in caves/mines

Reproduction: one pup June or July

Size/Appearance: 6-97 grams, 22-26 cm wingspan

Fascinating Fact: Hibernate deep in crevices.

EVENING BAT



Status: Uncommon

Diet: beetles (especially spotted cucumber beetles), moths, leafhoppers, stinkbugs, chinchbugs

Foraging: semi-open habitats from wetlands to woodlands

Summer Roost: tree cavities or buildings

Winter Habit: unknown; builds up fat reserves sufficient for hibernation or migration

Reproduction: Twins late spring

Size/Appearance: 7-14 grams, 26-28 cm wingspan

Fascinating Fact: Swarms with other bats around cave entrances in late summer, but does not enter the caves

EASTERN RED BAT



Status: Common

Diet: moths, June bugs, ants, planthoppers, leafhoppers, beetles

Foraging: early evening, warm winter afternoons, under street lights

Summer Roost: Hangs from trees

Winter Habit: Migrate south or hibernate in hollow trees or leaf litter

Reproduction: One to four pups (late spring) cling to mother's fur

Size/Appearance: 8-14 grams, 29-33 cm wingspan, fur

Fascinating Fact: Hang from trees by one foot to camouflage as dead leaves

