



Student/Classroom: _____ Examiner: _____ Assessment Date: _____

Bats: Misunderstood Mammals 606

The Six-Minute Solution, Sopris West

Bats are perhaps the most misunderstood of all the mammals. For example, the expression “blind as (**a**) bat” is widely used. The supposition (**that**) bats are blind is just one (**of**) the many misconceptions about these flying (**mammals**). In reality, bats are not blind (**at**) all. In fact, while all bats (**can**) see, many bats can even see (**better**) than some people. There are basically (**two**) kinds of bats-large and small. Mega (**bats**) have excellent eyesight. Their large eyes (**enable**) them to see fruits and flowers (**in**) the night. Smaller bats rely on (**echolocation**) while flying at night, but even (**these**) bats are able to see. The (**echolocation**) assists them in finding insects. Most (**bats**) have better night vision than day (**vision**), however.

Many people think of bats (**as**) vampires that suck people’s blood. (**There**) are nearly 1,000 species of bats in (**the**) world. They live in almost all (**areas**) of the world except for the (**very**) cold regions like Antarctica. Only three (**species**) of bats, those living in Mexico (**and**) South America, eat blood of mammals (**and**) birds. Even these bats do not (**suck**) the blood. Instead, they make a (**small**) bite in the animal’s skin (**using**) their very sharp teeth. They then (**lick**) up the blood. Bat saliva has (**a**) chemical that prevents blood from clotting (**before**) the bat is finished eating. Scientists (**are**) studying bats to see if this (**chemical**) could prevent human strokes caused by (**blood**) clots.

Bats are important to humans (**in**) other ways. They pollinate trees and (**flowers**) and spread seeds so that plants (**grow**) in other areas. Bats can eat (**half**) of their weight in insects each (**night**). Therefore, they are very effective controllers (**of**) pests who harm crops and spread (**disease**). These misunderstood mammals are actually very (**valuable**) creatures.



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Bats are perhaps the most misunderstood of all the mammals. For example, the expression "blind as (**large, a, see**) bat" is widely used. The supposition (**that, not, do**) bats are blind is just one (**important, blind, of**) the many misconceptions about these flying (**most, mammals, flowers**). In reality, bats are not blind (**at, studying, harm**) all. In fact, while all bats (**even, for, can**) see, many bats can even see (**if, better, night**) than some people. There are basically (**two, three, weight**) kinds of bats-large and small. Mega (**antarctica, could, bats**) have excellent eyesight. Their large eyes (**vision, able, enable**) them to see fruits and flowers (**in, supposition, using**) the night. Smaller bats rely on (**blood, echolocation, small**) while flying at night, but even (**and, these, eyesight**) bats are able to see. The (**nearly, echolocation, caused**) assists them in finding insects. Most (**they, humans, bats**) have better night vision than day (**skin, vision, are**), however.

Many people think of bats (**actually, as, live**) vampires that suck people's blood. (**There, Most, Eating**) are nearly 1,000 species of bats in (**s, the, before**) world. They live in almost all (**areas, therefore, that**) of the world except for the (**bat, flying, very**) cold regions like Antarctica. Only three (**species, half, can**) of bats, those living in Mexico (**eyes, but, and**) South America, eat blood of mammals (**who, and, think**) birds. Even these bats do not (**seeds, saliva, suck**) the blood. Instead, they make a (**finished, fact, small**) bite in the animal's skin (**mexico, have, using**) their very sharp teeth. They then (**lick, example, insects**) up the blood. Bat saliva has (**creatures, like, a**) chemical that prevents blood from clotting (**before, as, strokes**) the bat is finished eating. Scientists (**are, basically, for**) studying bats to see if this (**chemical, blind, insects**) could prevent human strokes caused by (**sharp, prevents, blood**) clots.

Bats are important to humans (**in, bats-large, areas**) other ways. They pollinate trees and (**cold, the, flowers**) and spread seeds so that plants (**them, by, grow**) in other areas. Bats



can eat (**finding, effective, half**) of their weight in insects each (**bite, night, grow**). Therefore, they are very effective controllers (**many, of, valuable**) pests who harm crops and spread (**rely, disease, human**). These misunderstood mammals are actually very (**valuable, from, chemical**) creatures.