



Bats Lesson based on Stellaluna



Read the story Stellaluna by Janell Cannon

Questions to ask:

1. Why did Stellaluna act the way she did when she was with the birds, and why did she act the way she did when she was with the bats?
2. Was Stellaluna acting like a responsible bird?

Students will say that she was a bat.

3. Explain that Stellaluna was obeying the rules so she could live with her bird family.
4. You can discuss that even though we may not like the rules at school or home, we need to obey them. Stellaluna did not like eating bugs, but she ate them anyway. She wanted to sleep upside down, but she wanted to stay with her bird family. It is our job, as students at our school to obey the rules.

Closure:

In their journals, the students can write about a time they have broken a rule and what happened when they did. They could write about how they could have done the right thing. Have students illustrate their story.

Technology connection:

You may want the students to use Word to write the story. Students can illustrate the story by using the drawing tools in Word. You may want them to use clip art if they don't have enough time to draw the picture.

Facts about Fruit Bats to share with students:

Fruit bats have large eyes to help them see well at twilight.

Their bodies are plump and furry. They are so cute!

Combined head and body length is about 20 cm. (8 inches)

The wingspan can be as much as about 90 cm. (36 inches)

The Livingstone's Fruit Bat from Africa is one of the largest fruit bats.

It has a wingspan of up to 6ft. long.

The long-tongued fruit bat is one of the smallest with a wingspan of 5 to 6 inches.

Bats have four long fingers and a short thumb to each wing.

The wing membranes are attached to the fingers and to the legs.

They have a claw on the second finger in addition to the claw on the thumb.

A group of bats is called a colony.

Bats make monkey-like screams.

Fruit bats eat mostly fruit and flower nectar. They crush the fruit to extract the juice and spit out the pulp.

Some of the food is: avocados, dates, mangos, and peaches.

Fruit bats have a good sense of smell.

Bats can't see in total darkness.

They fly using moonlight, starlight and twilight.

During the day fruit bats roost in trees not caves.

Some bats are small as a bee weighing less than a penny.

Some bats have an arm span of 6 feet in length.

Hair covers most of its body.

It can be white, brown, black, or orange-tan.

Ears can be short and round or long and thin

Its fingers are stretched apart with skin in between

It uses its thumb to climb

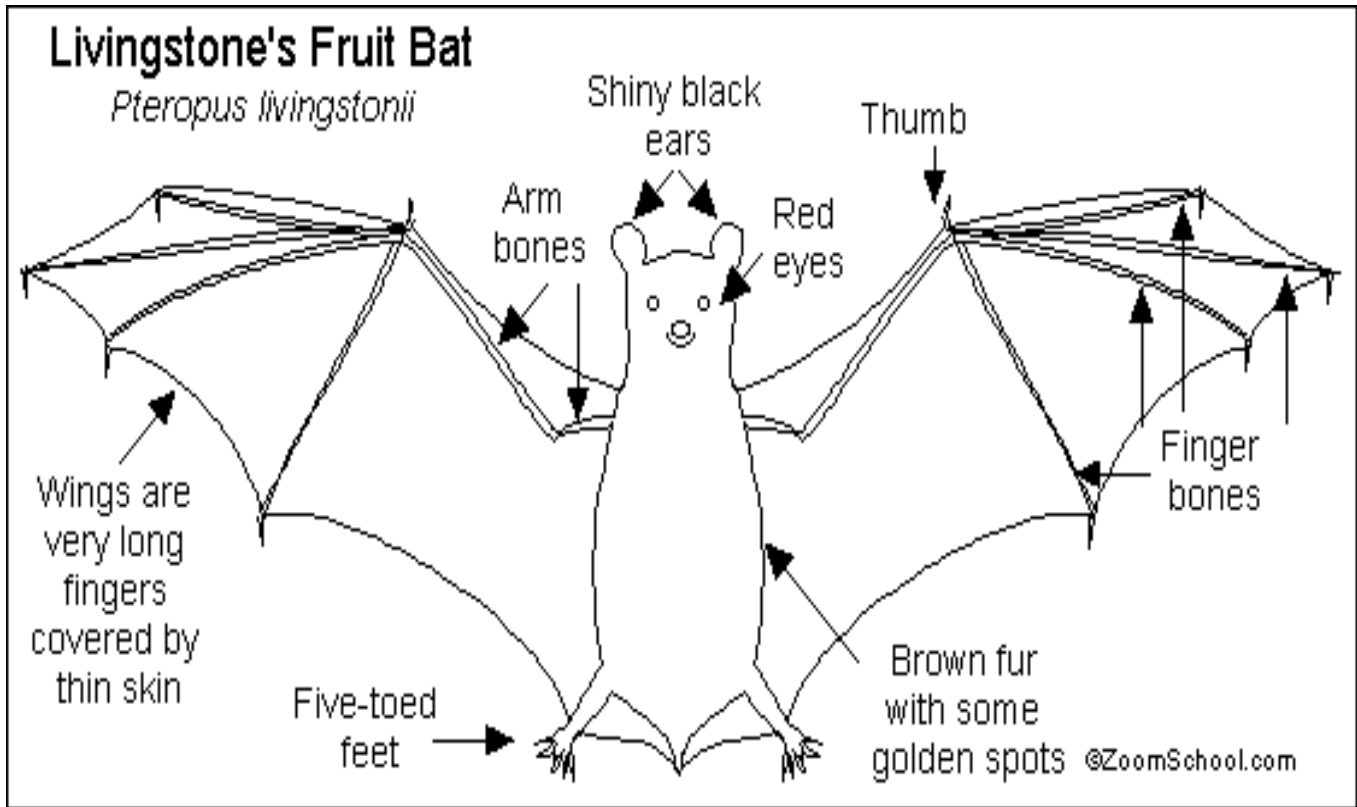
Some have tails, others do not

Some have tongues half as long as their body

They have wings with no feathers

Bats are found everywhere except the Polar Regions

Other types of bats may eat fish, frogs, insects and even blood



You can get some yarn and cut it to 5ft. 10 inches to show how long the biggest bat **by wingspan** is. The **Malayan Flying Fox Bat**

You can put water in a 2 liter bottle and make it weigh 2.6 pounds to show the students how much the **Golden-capped Bat** weighs. It is the world's biggest bat by weight.

Let the students hold a dime and tell them this is about how much a **Bubble Bee Bat** weighs. It is 2 grams. The world's smallest!