

Meet the Bat

The bat is a mysterious **nocturnal** creature, and often feared. Bats lived on Earth with the dinosaurs 50 million years ago. There are more than 900 different kinds of bats. Some are very small, like the bumblebee bat, weighing less than a penny. Some are very large, like the flying fox, with a wingspan of 6 feet (2 meters).

Bats' nighttime activities provide amazing benefits. They consume countless insects and spread the seeds of tropical fruits and flowers.

Unfortunately, today about 78 species of bats are **endangered**. People may not realize many of their activities are harmful to the bat.



The grey-headed flying fox is an endangered species. It is a fruit bat that lives in Australia and is one of the largest bats in the world.

