

Echo, echo, echo



Animal allsorts



30 mins



Jump straight in

Aim of activity

Close your eyes, spread your wings and listen carefully. You've got to sharpen your senses and focus on your echo.

What you'll get out of it

- Discover amazing bat skills.
- Explore ways to improve your concentration.

What you'll need

- A blindfold (optional)





Bats are friendly, and they won't bother you. Their eyesight is pretty good in the light. But bats often fly around after dark when it's hard to see.

To help them find their way and track down food in the dark, they use **echolocation**. As they fly, bats send out clicking noises. By listening to their clicks' echoes, bats work out where objects and insects to eat are.

What to do

- 1 Can you listen as well as a bat? Everyone get into a circle. Pick someone to be the bat first. They need to stand in the middle and close their eyes.
- 2 Your leader will pick someone to be the echo – make sure the bat doesn't know who it is.
- 3 When your leader says 'go', the bat needs to clap. Then the echo needs to clap back. The bat should point to where they think the clap came from. Did they get it right?
- 4 Pick a new echo and try again. How many in a row can the bat get right? Make sure everyone in the circle gets a go at being the bat.

- 5 Lots of things can distract bats, like noise, lights or other animals. Let's up the challenge! Your leader will choose three Rainbows to be distractions during each round.

Distractions – when the echo claps, make any noise that's not a clap (like a stomp).
Bat – you need to ignore the distractions and zone in on your echo.

Try it this way

Bats sometimes fly around with other bats and need to recognise their own echoes. Add another bat – they clap twice. Can the two bats each point to their own echo?

Top tip

Bats – to help you concentrate, try clearing your mind and taking deep breaths.

- 6 Was it harder to find your echo with all the different noises? Sometimes it's difficult to focus when lots of things are going on. What could you do to help?
Next time you have a tricky task, try doing it in a quiet room without distractions. When you set your mind to it, you can do anything!

Take it further

Ask your leader to organise a bat walk for your unit. Or go online with a trusted adult to [Bats.org.uk](https://www.bats.org.uk) to discover tips on bat watching.