

## Indoor Activity: Echolocation Experiment

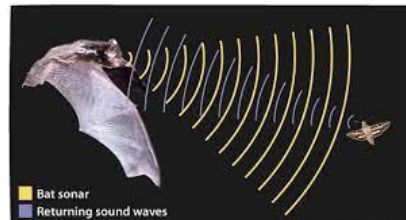
Bats use their specialized hearing to make up for their poor eyesight to find their way around. Using high pitched sound signals they analyze the echoes that bounce back from the environment. Size, shape, and texture of objects in the environment can all be interpreted through echolocation. 70% of bats utilize echolocation to get around, however, they aren't the only ones. Dolphins, whales, oilbirds, shrews, and bats all utilize the skills of echolocation.

### Benefits

- **Learning what its like to rely on different senses.**
- **Fun for all ages!**
- **Learn how bats may see the world differently.**

### Supplies

- **Adult Supervision**
- **Big Listening Ears**
- **Crayons or Colored Pencils**
- **Paper**



### What to do

- **It is time to pull out you bat senses! First close your eyes.**
- **For this activity you will keep your eyes closed and rely on you hearing.**
- **Listen to the sounds around you and try to paint a picture of what is going on with the sounds.**
- **When you feel you have a clear image of you surrounding put together open your eyes.**
- **Now use the paper and coloring utensils to draw what you heard.**
- **Once you finish your drawing write a description to go along with your drawing.**
- **After finishing your drawing and description ask you adult if what you gathered from listening was correct!**

For an extra activity follow this link to [BATWEEK](#) for plans to build a bat house for your backyard! Bats love to snack on bugs and can help limit them in your yard.

\*This activity requires adult involvement and building materials.

## Outdoor Activity: Make a Pumpkin Critter

We love pumpkins for pumpkin pie, but did you know critters love them too? Many zoos distribute pumpkins this time of year to their animals as enrichment as well as snacks. Squirrels, birds, and decomposers in the ground all love pumpkin. The meat, seeds, and compost can all provide nutrients to critters right in your backyard!

### Benefits

- Learning to identify animals.
- Fun for all ages!
- Safety with tools.



### Supplies

- Adult Supervision and Assistance
- Pumpkin
- Marker
- Pumpkin Carving Knife or Serrated Knife
- Silhouettes Below
- Access to Printing
- Scissors

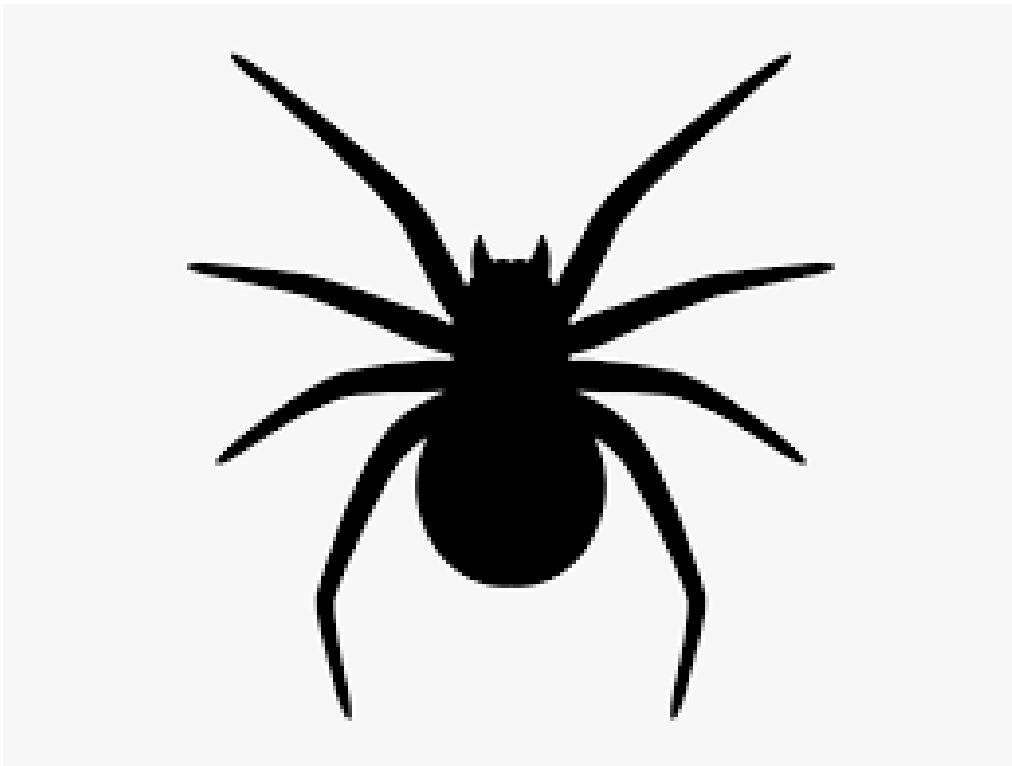
### What to do

- Look at the silhouettes below and see if you can identify the animals depicted in them.
- Pick your favorite critter and print it out.
- With safety scissors and adult supervision and/or assistance cut out the silhouette.
- Place the silhouette on the pumpkin where you would like it.
- While holding the silhouette in place trace it with the marker onto the pumpkin.
- For this step ask an adult for assistance with carving out your pumpkin.
- Once it is carved out it is ready to be put out in the yard!

Over the next few weeks watch you pumpkin to see if any critters use it for a snack! Can you identify them?

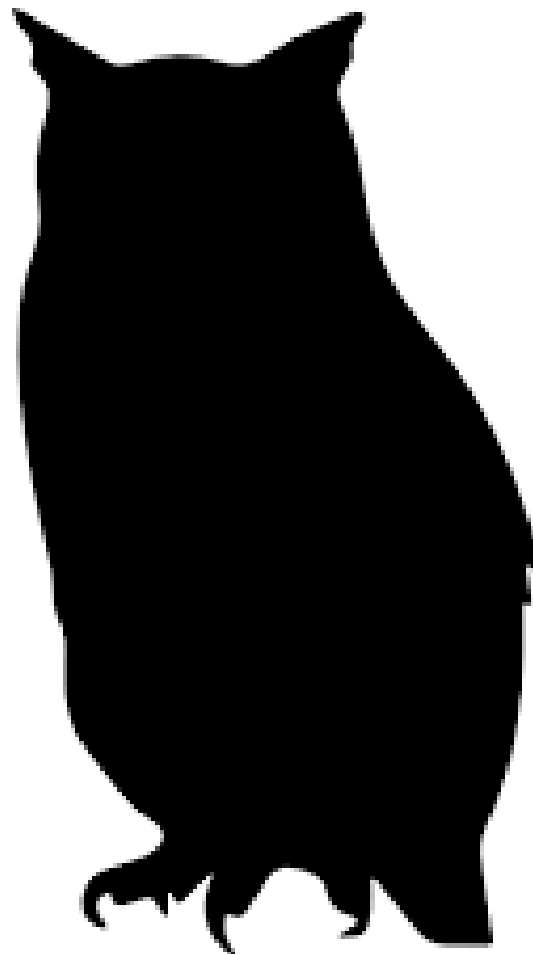
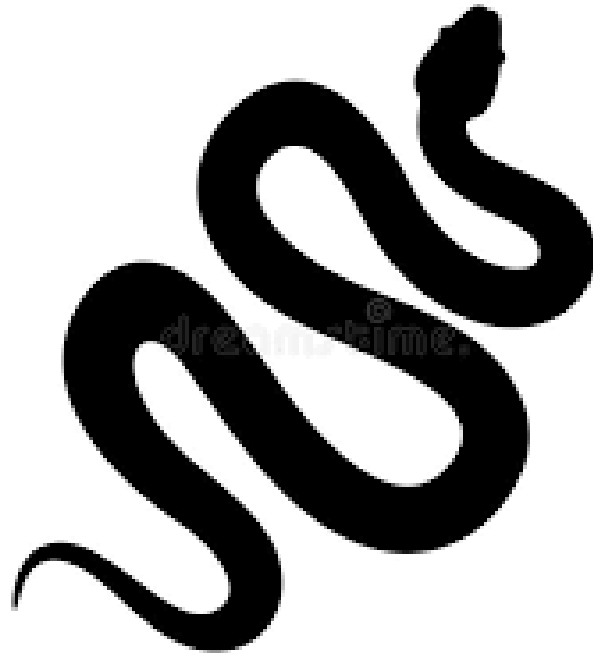
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