

Make a Bat Skeleton Puppet

Discover bat skeletons by making a moveable puppet!



Special adaptations help bats fly, including lightweight arm bones and long finger bones covered with a membrane to form flexible wings.

Left: Bat skeleton [Image: www.earthlife.net](http://www.earthlife.net).

Materials Needed:

Bat skeleton puppet template, scissors, 8 metal brads, small rubber bands, string. Optional: Cardstock or thin cardboard, popsicle stick, glue, small hole punch, binder hole reinforcement stickers.

Instructions:

Prepare your materials: Print the puppet template on cardstock, or glue to a thin piece of cardboard to make it sturdier. Cut out the bat skeleton pieces along the dotted lines. Make small holes on each black dot, with a small hole punch or the tip of a pencil. Be careful not to get too close to the edge. Optional: Add binder hole reinforcement stickers on each hole.

Step 1: Turn the wing pieces over

Bats: The Flying Mammals

Bats are the only mammals who can fly. Other mammals, like the flying squirrel and flying lemur, glide rather than actually fly.

Bats are members of the order Chiroptera which have five digits on each wing. The first digit is a thumb, and the other four are fingers. The fingers and thumb are connected by a thin layer of skin called a membrane. Their flexible wings and movable joints allow them to change direction quickly in midair. They can fold their wings like we move our fingers, making bats excellent at maneuvering in the air.

Bat wings Image: National Park Service.

Bat Skeleton Puppet Template: Print and cut along the dotted lines. Punch small holes on the black dots.

