



# General Bat Facts



- Bats are mammals that give birth to live babies called pups and nurse their young with milk
- The only mammal capable of true flight
- There are over 1,000 different species of bats, making up about 1/5 of all mammal species
- Bats can vary in size from butterfly size to wingspans of 2 meters

## Bats Play an Important Role

- Insect-eating bats can save farmers millions in pesticide use
- Fruit-eating bats are major seed dispersers
- Nectar-feeding bats are pollinators of trees and plants in tropical areas



## Bats Wings and Distribution

- Their ability to fly enables bats to be widely distributed worldwide, even on isolated islands.
- Their wings are composed of a very large double-layer membrane of skin that joins their long fingers from the bases to the tips.
- Bats are more efficient at flying (i.e., use less energy) than birds or insects of similar sizes.