

BatWeek in a Box - #FridayFun - EduBat Bat Lantern Jar

MATERIALS

- Glass jar
- Pattern template
- Scissors
- Glue
- Tea light candles
- Isopropyl Alcohol
- Black paint or paint marker
- Small paint brush

OPTIONAL

- For some extra pizzazz, use “stained glass” spray paint or glow in the dark paints for the area of the jar not covered with the bat design!



DIRECTIONS

Follow the directions below to put together the jar. This super easy project will result in a magnificent keepsake! Use the guide on the next page to turn this fun activity into an educational one.

- 1) Clean the inside and outside of your jar using Isopropyl Alcohol.
- 2) Print off the template on 8.5x14 paper (8.5x11 paper will also work, but make sure to print it larger, especially if you are going to use Option 1). Cut the template in half long-ways to separate the cave landscape and the house landscape. Choose which landscape you want to use for your jar.
- 3) Wrap the template around the jar to determine if it's the correct length. If it is too long for your jar, cut off the excess piece, but make sure you leave about a centimeter extra on each end.

Option 1: Cut and Glue

- 4) Use sharp scissors to cut out the template and the bats. If you have help, you could use a craft knife or scalpel to cut out the small features like windows. But, be careful!
- 5) Glue the template to the jar and glue the end pieces together. Be sure to glue the bats in places where they would want to fly around.

Option 2: Paint the Bat Habitat Scene

- 4) After printing out the template, roll the paper template and place it on the inside of the jar against the glass.
- 5) Paint the design on the outside of the jar using black paint and a small brush. You might want to do two coats of paint, but make sure to let the jar dry in between coats.

Be sure to post a photo of your completed bat jar lantern or a video of you creating your lantern online with #BatWeek and #FridayFun. Tell your friends to make one too!



AN EDUCATOR'S GUIDE TO THE PROJECT EDUBAT BAT LANTERN JAR

This Bat Lantern Jar landscape template captures the amazing diversity of bat habitats and how people and bats interact. There are 47 species of bats in the United States and all of them are beneficial to people. Most bats feed on insect pests and some bats even help in pollination. The template is designed to be examined from left to right. Each section is chosen to represent a special benefit that bats provide or explain bat habitats. Use this “cheat sheet” as a guide to transform this fun activity into an educational one as well.

Bats Eat TONS of Pesky Insects!

Bats are the primary predator of night-flying insects. A single bat can eat thousands of insects each night! Insect-eating bats, like the cave myotis, Townsend's big-eared bat, and little brown bat, feed on all sorts of insects including moths, beetles, crickets AND mosquitoes! Some of their favorite prey are crop-destroying pests like cucumber beetles and corn-borer moths. Annually, bats prevent nearly a billion dollars in pest damage to corn around the world!

Healthy Forests Need Healthy Bats – Healthy Bats Need Healthy Forests!

Bats are incredibly important to the health of our forests. They eat tons of forest pests like gypsy moths and borers that can decimate forests if left unchecked. But, bats need healthy forests too! You may think of bats as living in caves, yet many bats depend on forests for all or part of the year. Bats often rest in tree cavities or under loose bark during the daylight hours and emerge at dusk to feed on forest insects. Bats need healthy, well-managed forests that have both old and young trees. Even standing, dead trees can be important for bats!

Bats in My House!

As bats lose their natural habitats in trees and caves, they are sometimes forced to seek shelter in human structures. Bats may roost in attics, louvers, chimneys, or porches. They may also be found under siding, eaves, roof tiles, or shingles, and sometimes they can be found behind shutters. There is little reason to evict these beneficial animals unless they are causing a problem. Regardless, bats should be prevented from entering human living quarters.

YOU Can Provide a Home for Bats!

Our beneficial bats are in decline everywhere they are found. They face a variety of threats including habitat loss, disturbance during hibernation, death from wind turbines, and much more. A terrible disease, White Nose-Syndrome, has killed millions of bats as they hibernate in caves and mines to survive the winter. The loss of so many bats will have long lasting effects. Bats need friends, and you can help them by providing them with a safe home. Many bats live in dead and living trees that have cracks, cavities, and loose bark. Consider keeping trees with these features in your yard (as long as they are not a safety hazard). This will benefit bats and other wildlife too!

Room with a View!

What do you see mounted on those poles? Would it surprise you that this is a home we built just for bats? It's called a bat house! Bats need a safe, warm place to rest and to raise their young during the summer. Because most of our bats only have one baby a year, having a safe home is vital to long-term survival. If you don't have any trees, consider putting up a bat house. Free designs are available at batweek.org.



