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Mrs. Hulslander's First Grade students learned all about spiders and how they catch their food. They read the book, How Spiders Catch Their Food, by Marilyn Woolley. The students brainstormed about all the information they had read about, and wrote some interesting facts. We hope you enjoy learning about spiders as much as we did!

Cheyenne: Spiders make silk to make a web to catch bugs.

Jackson: Spiders suck out the insides of the insects.

Marisa: Spiders sometimes carry a web to catch insects.

Breanna: Spiders can carry a web to catch insects.

Tyler: Spiders have silk to make webs.

Madisin: Spiders carry their webs.

Sebastian: Spiders they are sometimes poison.

Cowboy: Spiders sometimes climb trees to catch bugs.

Hayleigh: Some spiders have four eyes.

Jozlynn: Spiders sometimes have a web.

Alyssa: Spiders sit on a web.

Joshua: Spiders make webs to catch a bug.

Bevianna: Spiders carry webs to catch insects.

Nathanial: Spiders have webs in the air.

Kaylina: Spiders catch bugs with webs.

Hanna: Spiders have webs to catch bugs.

Joseph: Spiders make webs and they eat bugs.

Brian: Spiders are cool because they squirt a dragline to catch bugs.

Mrs. Lunman's afternoon reading groups read about bats of all kinds! They chose a bat to research, take notes on, and write about! We are batty over bats! Hope you will be too!

The Amazing Tent-Building Bat

By: Gabby Strait

When I read about the Tent Building Bat I knew it was the bat for me. I looked at all the other bats and when I saw this

one I knew my report was going to be on the Tent Building Bat. All of the different facts I found about the Tent Building Bat definitely appealed to me. Now get ready for an awesome description! The Tent Building Bat weighs seven to eleven sixteenths of an ounce. Wow! That is a bat that does not weigh a lot! Is that a bat or a skunk? Oh, that's a bat! It has a white stripe down its back. This miniature bat is two and one half inches long. Its tail is also one half inch long. The Tent Building Bat's fur is a dark gray brown with a lighter colored body. It has a leaf nose and pale edges around its nose. Did you know its ears have a yellow rim around them? Wow! That's a pretty bat! Now don't go anywhere. We still have to talk about its habitat. The Tent Building Bat lives in Central North America, Central South America, Mexico and Brazil. They make their home in palm trees leaves. It chews a hole in the central rib of a leaf causing the leaf to fold in half. Wow! That's a different

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way to make its home. Its home protects it from rain, snow, wind and predators. Well isn't that cool! The holes that the bat chews in the leaf are a perfect size for the bat's claws to hold on as the bat hangs upside down on the leaf. This bat obviously got its name from creating tents. The Tent Building bat roosts alone in a small group up to 60. Well I think I would call that a large group of 60. One time they found 1 leaf full of bats. Wow! If that wasn't my family I wouldn't want to live with strangers. Do you think where the Tent Building Bat lives is cool? Well I do.

This bat eats various things. The Tent Building bat eats leaves, fruit, insects, and nectar. Wow! This bat doesn't eat a lot. This bat catches the insects on its wings. Some of these insects are butterflies, dragonflies, and smaller insects that crawl on the ground. This bat chews its food until nothing but pulp is left. Then it sucks the juice out. When the bat is done drinking the juice, it spits

the seeds out. This is helpful because the seeds that the bat spit out go to the ground and let other plants grow. Do you think how the Tent Building Bat eats is cool?

Now here are some interesting facts I'm sure you would like to hear. The Tent Building Bat has strong jaws that are used to carry fruit. Females are at home for around three months, and then they start moving to some areas to start breeding. Breeding occurs about twice per year. When the tiny baby is born, it can't fly so it clings to their mother's belly until it can fly. Well I wouldn't want to go everywhere my mother goes. It would get boring. Did you know that owls, snakes, and raccoons prey on bats? Oh my goodness! These bats are very common. They also hide during the day. Well wouldn't it be hard to hunt at night because you might not see? I hope you learned about the Tent Building Bat.



The Vampire Bat By: Kristina Fosmire

Welcome to the world of blood-sucking and night-flying. Since you're here, meet the vampire bat! I've always believed so many myths about this bat. When I read a little bit about this bat, I knew it was time to learn the truth about these so called blood-suckers. If you're brave, keep reading to find out about these creatures of the night.

Do you think you know what a vampire bat looks like? It definitely doesn't look like a mythical vampire. Here's how it really looks. The fur can be in so many colors such as grayish-white, grayish-brown, red or gold. That's a really big variety of colors. If you look up in the night sky, you probably won't realize a vampire bat is above your head! This happens because of the fur on its stomach is a light color, so it blends with the evening sky. The fur on its back is a dark color so predators

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won't see it at night. Cool, right? Would you think a vampire bat weighs a lot? Absolutely not! This bat weighs a mere one ounce. It could get up to one and three fourths ounces though. That's not much in my eyes. You would never have guessed this! This bat has a face like a pug. A pug with teeth like knives I should say! Now let's talk about the size of this bat. This bat's body is as big as an adult's thumb (2-4")! Maybe its body is small, but it has a wingspan of 8 inches. Those are some big wings on such a small body. The tail is about 2 ½ inches long. This bat doesn't look as scary as a mythical vampire. Do you agree?

Where do vampire bats live you ask? Here's a relief. They don't live by us. Here's where they really live. If you live in Mexico, you may not be so relieved. This bat mainly lives in parts of Mexico and South America. To be more specific, vampire bats can be found in caves, hollow-trees, mines and wells. Ready for colonies? Sometimes the colonies of

bats can be huge, while other times they can be really small. Small colonies can have from 20 to 100 bats. 100 bats may seem numerous, but that's nothing to colonies of 5,000 bats. Big difference, right? Now you know where vampire bats live, and when you're sleeping here in New York, you're not at risk of a vampire bat coming in and having a drink.

Ready to find out what this night-flyer eats? I bet you can guess it! If you guessed blood, you're right! Vampire bats drink the blood of horses, roosters, large birds, mules, cows and large dogs. Luckily, not humans! That's pretty much all it eats. You may know that, but did you know they really don't drink blood? Vampire bats take their bottom teeth and make a wound. After that, they lap up the blood, saliva runs into the wound and makes the wound bleed continuously. More blood means more meal time! Vampire bats feed for about a half hour. Seems simple right? Not

at all. There's a lot more to it than this. First, the vampire bat has to find its prey. It's not as hard as everything else. The heat sensing cells on the tip of its nose help find its prey. After it finds prey, it needs to strike. The vampire bat hovers 1 meter above its prey. When the prey is unsuspecting, the bat creeps up on its hind legs and strikes. Well you just got the scoop on what and how vampire bats eat.

There are so many batty things about this bat! Stay tuned, to learn some cool and surprising facts about the vampire bat. What do you want to start with? I know. How about myths and beliefs about these bats? To make it interesting let's rate by top five. Number five, these bats are pests in Latin America! Going on to number four, Trinidadians say vampire bats are controlled by "Jumbie"! Jumbie is a figure of an old woman who is really the spirit of bloodsucking. Number three, coming around the corner, Europeans would never let a bat in their house, as bats

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are bad luck. Two is here and ready to share! Chinese people let bats in their house because bats are good luck! Get ready for number one! Vampire bats are believed to stop strokes! Imagine a bat stopping a stroke! What a miracle! There's a lot more facts to come! This "acro-bat" can walk, hop, leap, run, climb walls, and even perform somersaults. It may be able to do tricks, but sometimes this bat can be a total pig. Sometimes this bat eats so much it can't fly! Hold on! Baby vampire bats cling non-stop to their mother's stomachs, even in flight! Zoom! There goes a vampire bat! This bat can fly from 6-12 miles an hour! Is that a bat wing!? Sometimes in medieval times bats were used as medicine ingredients. Gross I wouldn't want to drink that! Do you think vampire bats are mean for drinking the blood of cute animals?

You won't any more. Sometimes vampire bats risk their lives to feed less fortunate bats. Crazy, cool, and interesting,

vampire bats have so many qualities. Now let's hope you know the full truth about vampire bats. They're really not blood-sucking monsters after all. (Cont. on Page 6)

The Head Start students who are going to kindergarten were interviewed and asked what their favorite time was in school and what they will miss. The teachers will miss the children and wish them well in kindergarten.

Tatum Brooker will be going to Kingsborough. Her favorite activity was painting and coloring. She wants to be an artist and feels she got a good start on her career in Head Start. She will miss her teachers and her friend Deeanna.

Isabel Smith will be attending Meco. She will miss reading all the books she has enjoyed in school, her favorite is On Top of Spaghetti. She will miss her teachers and her friend Kenny.

Maria Vasquez will be attending Park Terrace and she will miss all the great books she read at school. Her favorite story is A House for a Hermit Crab, the book was a gift from Head Start and she reads it every night at home. She will miss coming to school and her friend Ayedin.

John Morton will be attending Boulevard and will miss playing on the computers. His favorite game is Clifford and he is very good. He will miss all his teachers and friends.

Makayla Guile will be attending Meco and since she will be getting a new book bag for Kindergarten she will miss her old one which has served her well. She will miss her friend Kiara. She has enjoyed playing and likes to get stickers.

Deeanna Douglas will be attending Kingborough. Her favorite activity is painting and playing with puzzles. She hopes to be able to paint in kindergarten. She will

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miss her friends Bryant and Tatum.

Kristen VanHorne will be attending Meco. She will miss playing in the block area and the doll house. She will miss all her friends.

Andrea Lawrence will be attending Meco. Her favorite activity is to play in the kitchen area and with the baby dolls. She is going to be a good Mom. She is going to miss her friend Deeanna.

Davin Robinson will be attending Meco. His favorite time was when he was playing in the block area with the big truck. He will miss building with the blocks and hopes he will be able to build in kindergarten.

Bryant Bargy will be moving to Johnstown and will be attending Warren Street. He liked playing the bowling game on the computer. He is very good and maybe will be a star bowler. He will miss his teachers and his friend Connor.

Austen Warner will also be moving to Johnstown and will be attending Pleasant Ave. He will miss playing with the blocks and the Clifford game on the computer. He will miss all his friends.

Connor Boulware will be attending Meco. His favorite activity is playing with the dinosaurs and the blocks. He will miss all the dinosaurs and hopes there will be some in his new kindergarten classroom.

Kiara Rose will be attending Boulevard. Her favorite activity is playing house in the kitchen area. It looks like she will be a good housekeeper. She will miss all her friends and teachers.

Anthony Vandebogart will be attending Park Terrace. He will miss playing with all the toys and dinosaurs. He really likes the dinosaurs and knows all their names. He will miss his friend Bryant.

Ayedin Waldvogel will be attending Kingborough. His favorite activity is playing with dinosaurs. He liked making a weather project that he took home to check on the weather daily. He will miss his friends.

Illyana Dingman will be attending Kingsborough. Her favorite time at school is playing with the toys and being with her friends, she will miss her friend Makayla.

Madison Slater will be attending Boulevard. She is so happy at school she likes to play with everything. She will miss all her friends and everything about school.



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Mrs. Lunman's Bat stories continued from page 4....

The Silver Haired Bat
By: Jacob Keller

Have you ever heard of the Silver Haired Bat? I chose this bat because it is very astonishing and then it hit me. Why don't I write about the Silver Haired Bat? Do you know what the Silver Haired Bat looks like? This bat is medium sized. The Silver Haired Bat has an 11 ½ inch wingspan. The Silver Haired Bat's colors are black and silver. Baby Silver Haired Bats nearly weigh one or two grams. Adults normally weigh nine to twelve grams. Do you think the Silver Haired bat is cool so far?

Do you know where Silver Haired bats can be found? Silver Haired Bats are one of the most common bats in North America. They are abundant in areas of Canada and the United States and all of the U.S. states that have forests. They range from southeastern Alaska to

southern Canada and all the states except Florida. They are found in part of New England and New York. They are residents of the North Woods. The live behind pieces of bark in woodpecker holes, and in entrances of caves. They are found southward into Mexico. Where is your favorite area that this bat lives?

Do you know what the Silver Haired Bat eats? The Silver Haired Bat eats mosquitoes and moths. The Silver Haired Bat uses echo-location. Echo-location is the use of sound waves that bounce back to the bats to help the bats find food. The mosquitoes and moths are packed with protein that help the bats grow. These bats must love mosquitoes and moths.

I have many more interesting facts coming up. The silver hairs on this bat give it an icy appearance. The upper half of its tail is furrer than the rest of its body. This is not seen in most others species of bats. The females have one or two babies at a time. They

give birth in May or June. Their colonies have about 55 bats in them. They prefer roosts to reach 30 feet high or more. They prefer places that have mild climates. Male Silver Haired Bats love to roost by themselves. They travel south during the autumn. They hide behind rocks. Do you like the Silver Haired Bat? Yes or no?

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As part of Project Read's writing program, Mrs. Lunman's 4th graders wrote descriptive paragraphs explaining the "before, during, and aftermaths" of thunderstorms. Get ready for some striking writings!!

Thunderstorms
By: Alana White

Thunderstorms are caused by certain weather conditions. As soon as the sky darkens, the sun hides under the gloomy clouds. The rain soon drizzles lightly on the ground. The thunder rumbles like a giant stomping by. Lightning flashes across the sky like a shooting star while the humidity rises and makes the air all soggy and damp. The storm is here and the lightning is striking and burning. The wind howls like a black bear begging for food. The mighty thunder roars like a lion. The rain is pouring very loud. Ahhh! That's better! The humidity is dropping. The sun has its power back. The sun's beautiful sun rays are

blocking the clouds again so it can show the colorful rainbow. The birds chirp in the bright blue sky. There are some puddles here and there. Sometimes after rainstorms it can be gorgeous and vivid if you think of it that way.

Thunderstorms
By: Emily Jack

Certain weather conditions can cause thunderstorms. The sky is inky and dark clouds are gathering quickly. The sun pushes behind the black clouds. Lightning is sprinting across the sky. Thunder is growling meanly and the wind is screaming threw the mean weather. Rain sprinkles and the humidity goes up. The lightning slams at huge trees. The wind is crying. The rain pounds on the ground . Thunder crackles as hard as it can. Suddenly the storm stops! Now a magnificent rainbow came out and it is so pretty! Then the sun is shining. After seeing the sunshine, the puddles start to evaporate. Birds are chirping and flying

everywhere. The humidity drops and it is not so sticky anymore. Finally, the bright blue sky is bluer than you could ever imagine! The thunder storm was caused by certain weather conditions.

Here Comes a
Thunderstorm!
By: Alyssa Henley

Thunderstorms are caused by certain weather conditions. As the sky darkens, the murky clouds come together and the glowing sun goes behind them. Wow! What is that? It's lightning in the distance. That means a storm is coming. The thunder rumbles as loud as a chimpanzee! Blowing gently, you can hear the whistling wind. Uh-oh! It's starting to sprinkle! The storm is getting closer! All that humidity that is rising makes the air feel pretty soggy!

The storm is here! Ahhh! The lightning is striking and burning "shockingly"! The wind isn't blowing gently anymore! Hey! The

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thunder just got louder! I didn't want that to happen!

Cool! That's better, the weather is now lovely! I see the rainbow is bursting with color. Oh It feels good to warm up in the sun again. Birds chirping, definitely makes me feel better. The air isn't soggy anymore, which means the humidity dropped. That's good! Awesome! No more dark clouds! You can see the very good looking blue sky after a thunderstorm. Certain weather conditions make thunderstorms act wild!

Thunderstorms

By: Emily Barker

There are many weather conditions that come together causing thunderstorms. The sky darkens as dark, furious clouds gather in front of the bright, hot sun. Suddenly, the lightning flashes, then you hear thunder starting up getting ready to go on a rampage. You feel a soft wind starting just blowing gently, but it will be picking up really soon to

turn things around like a blender. You feel the humidity rising and you feel droplets of rain dropping on you. Finally, the storm has come to turn things around. Then quickly the irate wind picks up. Then you can see a lightning bolt, closer to you than the first time it struck. You feel and hear the rain pounding getting ready to give the Earth all it has got. You hear thunder crackling, booming, and getting closer to you pounding like an incensed lion. Then, you feel no rain. You hear no thunder. You see no lightning. The storm is over. All you see are birds flying and chirping happily. The sky is as blue as the sea. You see the blinding sun shining brightly, shimmering on the puddles the kids are playing in. Then, the rainbow blooms in the sky like a million flowers with many colors. The humidity drops and you feel good again. Everything is better now that the storm is over.

Thunderstorms

By: Jacob Spinnaker

There are many weather conditions that come together to make thunderstorms. The first thing you see is the sky darkening like a black hole! You see the sun getting swallowed by clouds. Then you may see the clouds come together, holding lots of rain droplets in them. Also, you might feel the soggy, wet humidity rising. If you are anywhere in your house, or outside, you hear the angry thunder rumbling and roaring. You may see lightning strike across the sky, splitting it in all directions, and the wind whistling like a kazoo. Then you feel the rain sprinkle. During this atomic storm you might see the lightning strike and burn! You hear the wind howl like a coyote! Also, you may hear the rain pounding on your roof! You may also hear thunder roaring like a dinosaur! When the storm is over, here might be a bright, beautiful rainbow over you! When you are

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outside, you could splash around in the puddles for fun. You see the nice birds up in their nest chirping to other birds to come out. When you are still outside you feel the humidity drop. Those are the weather conditions that come together to make thunderstorms.



Thunderstorms
By: Devina Eberts

Thunderstorms are caused by certain weather conditions. The sky darkens as dusky clouds accumulate. Slowly, the vivid sun goes behind the gloomy clouds. Then the humidity starts to rise. All of a sudden you see lightning zigzag across the sky like a shooting star. Then you hear the thunder roar! You will then feel a

gust of wind blowing gently. After a while you feel rain drizzling down on you. Now the thunderstorm is in full swing! Lightning strikes and burns things, but it gets worse! The wind howls like a mad dog. The rain that was once drizzling is now pouring. The thunder bursts out with huge bellows! Eventually the storm is over. Humidity now drops. Children come out to play in the glistening puddles. A rainbow appears illuminating the sky with its bright colors. The blinding sunshine is very bright. All of the bluebirds and ravens chirp to tell animals the storm is over. The blue sky is gorgeous like a blue jay. Thunderstorms are really just a part of nature.

Mrs. Lunman's bat stories continued from page 6...

The Fruit Bat
By: Caleb Chase

The Fruit Bat is the most interesting bat I have ever heard of! I've chosen

the Fruit Bat because when I read about this bat it caught my interest. I said, "Wow." I never read about a bat like this before! If you want to learn more about the Fruit Bat stay and listen to my report.

The Fruit Bat is a very nice looking bat. The Fruit Bat's colors are black, brown, and white. The Fruit Bat has no pattern. Fruit Bats can be very large in size. They are the largest of bats, but they can also be the smallest of bats. The Fruit Bat's body height is 1 foot. The smallest size of the Fruit Bat is 6 centimeters. Wow, don't you think that is small? Do you think the Fruit Bat is a nice looking bat?

How many places do you think the Fruit Bat can be found? The Fruit Bat can be found in Asia, Africa, and Australia. It lives in dense forest areas. The Fruit Bat can also be found in Hawaii and Mexico. Only a few Fruit Bats live in caves. These are only a few places where the Fruit Bat can be found. Fruit Bats can be

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found almost anywhere in the world!

Now do you want to learn what the Fruit Bat eats? The Fruit Bat eats peaches, dates, carob, avocados, jack fruit, plantains, mangoes, guava, cashews, figs and durian. The Fruit Bat never eats bugs. Now let's go on to how it eats. The Fruit Bat sucks the juice out of the fruit and chews it up and spills it out. The Fruit Bat eats many foods, don't you think?

These are some appealing facts about the superior Fruit Bat. Did you know another name for the Fruit Bat is a Mega Bat? The Fruit Bat's teeth are so razor shape, it can bite through the hardest fruits! There are 130 different kinds of Fruit Bats. The Fruit Bat does not use echolocation. A Fruit Bat's hold is so strong that it can hold upside-down on a pole even when it's dead. The mother only cares for its babies for 8 weeks. The Fruit Bat's eyes are large. They have a great sense of smell. The Fruit Bat is nocturnal. It uses its vast

wings to cool itself off. These are numerous facts about the Fruit Bat. Don't you think so?

The Ghost Bat
By: Timmy Denton

Have you ever heard of the Australian Ghost Bat before? Well you will know now, that out of all of the other bats, it pulled my attention the most. I never heard of a bat like it before. The first time I saw it I thought it was like a ghost. So I hope this magnificent bat grabs your attention too.

The Ghost Bat is an awesome looking bat. Its weight is between 70 to 130 grams and 4 ½-6 ounces. This bat is 4 to 5 ½ inches long. The Ghost Bat is the world's largest micro bat. It has extremely thin membranes on its wings that make it appear ghostly at night. Now I'm going to talk about its color. This bat has gray fur on its back, and white fur on its undersides. Do you think this bat is awesome?

Do you know where the Australian Ghost

Bat lives? They live in Northern parts of Australia and also subtropical areas such as forests and dry zones. It is also found outside of Central South America. This bat roosts in caves, mines, tunnels, and in large cracks in rocks. I hope you now know where the Australian Ghost Bat lives. Do you know what the Australian Ghost Bat eats? This bat eats geckos, other bat species, birds, snakes, frogs, and insects. Now I'm going to tell you how it eats. It hunts by echolocation that means it uses sound to help the bat find its prey. Then the sound travels and bounces off the prey and the object comes back to the bat's ears. It wraps its wings and holds its prey with its strong claws. Then it gives a deathly bite to the neck of its prey. The Ghost Bat is one of the bats that eat meat. This bat is carnivorous. That means that it eats meat. Now, do you know how it hunts? Now I'm going to tell you some other interesting facts about the Australian Ghost Bat. Do you know

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there's another name for this bat? It's called the false vampire bat. This bat is noted for its extremely thin membrane of its wings. That makes it appear ghostly at night. There are about 4,000 to 6,000 Ghost Bats in the wild. Wow! That's a lot of bats! The female Ghost Bat usually gives birth to their young in September or November once every year. People are concerned about the destruction of Ghost Bat homes. The mines, caves, and tunnels are being destroyed by miners. This bat is extremely shy. The mom never leaves her young until they are old enough to take care of themselves. I hope you liked the Australian Ghost Bat!



The Fruit Bat
By: Nicholas Millard

Have you ever learned about the Fruit Bat? If not read this. The reason I

chose it was because I didn't know a bat ate fruit. The Fruit Bat was so interesting. I read more cool information and found the bat for me.

Do you know what the Fruit Bat looks like? The Fruit Bat's wingspan is about 5 feet long. Wow that's huge! They can be black, brown, white or all of those colors. The smallest Fruit Bat can be only 6 cm long. The biggest is 35 to 40 cm (10 inches). It is one of the largest bats. The Fruit Bat weighs 2 to 3 pounds. Its eyes are really dark black. The Fruit Bat's ears are small and pointed. Wow! This bat looks interesting.

Where do you think the Fruit Bat lives? They live in tropical places such as Africa, South America, Asia and parts of Australia. They can be found in dense forest areas. Do you know why they live there? I'll tell you now. They live there because there is always food to eat. Well now you know where the Fruit Bat lives.

You probably know what the Fruit Bat eats by its name. It eats many avocados, carob, bananas, peaches, dates, flower nectar, and countless fruits. The Fruit Bat eats by mashing up the fruit in its mouth. Then it swallows the juice and the pulp after it spits out the rest.

Wow, that's a weird way to eat! Do you want to hear more about the Fruit Bat? This bat's claws are so powerful they won't let go even if they're dead. The smallest Fruit Bat is able to do this too. They hang inside caves, on branches, or cracks just to rest. In the winter they hibernate in caves with other bats. Fruit Bats are good flyers, but landing is another story. They must crash into brick walls. Crashing into trees usually starts fights with other Fruit Bats that are eating. The Fruit bats mate in August and September. They produce a single young in about 12-15 weeks. Their mothers care for their babies for 8 weeks. While showing them how to survive, their mothers fly over them to protect them. They get their own food at age three. When their legs are strong enough, they walk upside down on branches to get away from predators. These bats hate farmers because they try to kill them. They really do more good than bad. There are 13 species of Fruit Bats. That's a lot. Fruit Bats are fast flyers. They can fly 60 mph. Have you learned more about the Fruit Bat? I hope you have!

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