

Name: _____ Date: _____

Researching Bats

The writing prompt on page 10 says:

Research a species of bat that lives in your region or state. In a video, podcast, or essay, explain why the bat is important, what threats the bat faces, and how it can be protected.

Choose a species and use the boxes below to help you gather and organize your research, and then plan your presentation of your research.

Research Tips

Visit your library or use the internet to explore a variety of sources.

You may find the following organizations' websites to be good sources of information:

Bat Conservation International
Merlin Tuttle's Bat Conservation
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service
National Park Service

Remember to keep track of your sources—where you find each piece of information that you write down.

Basic Information

Species scientific name: _____ Species common name: _____

Appearance (size, color, defining characteristics):

Winter habitat:

Summer habitat:

Conservation status (endangered/threatened/other):

Population (estimates are OK):

Feeding habits:

Any other important information:

Why is this bat important?

What threats does this bat face?

How can this bat be protected?

Putting it all together

It's time to think about how you will present your research. Choose one of the three formats below and use the questions in the box to help you brainstorm ideas. You can jot your ideas down on the back of this page.

VIDEO

- Will there be people in the video?
- Will there be written text and images? Video clips?
- Will there be some kind of story?
- What about music?

PODCAST

- What will the format be? Here are some ideas:
 - an interview
 - a narrator or host with clips of interviews mixed in
 - a narrator or host with clips of radio-style drama mixed in
- Will you include sounds relevant to your story? If so, what sounds, and where can you get them?
- Will there be music?

ESSAY

- How can you grab your readers' attention at the beginning of your essay and make them want to read more?
- What is the purpose of your essay? To inform? To persuade readers to do something? Both?
- How can you give your essay a powerful ending that readers will remember?