

Science

Genre

Editorials are articles printed in newspapers and magazines that express the opinions of the writer.

Text Feature

Advertisements are text and pictures that try to persuade consumers to buy a product.

Content Vocabulary

colony

echolocation

insecticides

The Chance of a Lifetime



by Patricia West

What words come to mind when you see or think of a bat? Creepy? Dark? Dangerous? People who know very little about this creature might answer in this way. Those who know bats would use words such as “fascinating,” “amazing,” even “beautiful.”

All of us here in Austin have an incredible opportunity to take

a first-hand look at the Mexican free-tailed bat. A **colony** of bats has settled under the Congress Avenue Bridge.

I urge all of you to come out to see these bats. They tend to come out around sunset. Depending on the size of a colony, bats can eat tens of thousands of insects during their nightly flights. That, my friends, is a lot of mosquitoes.

cont. on page 714

Advertisement



Reading an Advertisement

The purpose of an advertisement is to persuade people to buy a product. Look for ways in which the author motivates customers to come to Kramer's.

Our Best Bat House Just Went On Sale!

SALE!



**Now Only \$40.00
(Regularly \$55.00)**

Designed by the Bat Society
Slanted roof for better run-off
Weather-resistant red cedar
Made in the USA

Special: Hammocks—Up to 50% off!

Wheelbarrows—10% off when you bring this ad

For a limited time only. Sales end 6/30.

KRAMER'S LAWN AND GARDEN

555 Main Street, Cedar Park, Texas • (555) 555-5555

Open daily 10-6








cont. from page 712

Unfortunately, bat populations are falling all around the county. This decline is due to several factors. **Insecticides** have killed many bats. People have disturbed bat roosts. Sadly, people who mistakenly think that bats are dangerous or carry disease have intentionally destroyed them. Scientists, however, believe that fewer than one bat in 200 is sick. Sick bats are too weak to fly, so they rarely come in contact with people. We need to spread the word.

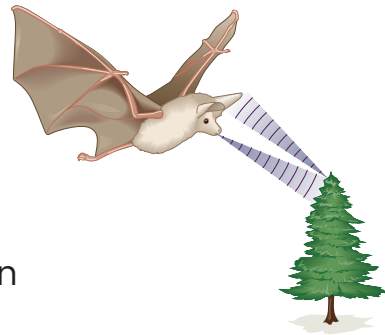
Dr. Markus Rivera, a scientist who studies bats, has some helpful advice to pass along. Here are his bat-viewing suggestions.

Tips on Viewing Bats

-  Look for bats at dawn or dusk.
-  Pick an open spot to see bats against the sky.
-  Look for bats near water or streetlights.
-  Never touch a bat.
-  Do not disturb bats during the day when they sleep.

Did You Know?

Did you know that bats do not rely on their eyes when they fly and hunt insects? They use **echolocation**. They emit high-pitched sounds. When the sound waves bounce off objects and return to the bat's ears, it can tell how far away the object is.



Connect and Compare



1. What are some persuasive techniques used in the ad on page 713? Could a customer at Kramer's get 50% off all hammocks? Explain. **Reading an Advertisement**
2. If you want to watch bats, when and where should you look? **Analyze**
3. Think about the editorial and *The Cricket in Times Square*. What are some misunderstandings that people have about crickets? About bats? **Reading/Writing Across Texts**



Science Activity

Research either bats or crickets. Draw a picture of one. Write three facts you learned in your research.



Find out more about bats at www.macmillanmh.com

Write a News Article

Writer's Craft

Facts and Opinions

News articles answer the questions *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, and *why*.

These “five Ws” should be explained within the text of the article. Present the **facts** and avoid giving **opinions**.

School News

What ARE Those Birds?

by Matthew E.

Have you seen the big green birds on the telephone poles behind the school? Their messy nest has been there for at least three years, growing larger every year.

The birds are called monk parakeets, but they are a kind of parrot that originally lived in South America.

How did they get here? They are probably escaped pets. Bird experts think the parakeets like it here on the coast because it doesn't get too cold in the winter. Next time you're outside for recess, take a look at our monk parakeet colony.



I wrote a fact-filled news article about an interesting subject.

I included the “five Ws” — who, what, why, when, and where.

Your Turn

Write a news article about an animal outside its habitat. Choose a topic that is important or unusual—something that will interest your readers. Think about the “five Ws” as you research and write: *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, and *why*. Make sure you answer these questions with facts. Use the Writer’s Checklist to check your writing.



Writer’s Checklist

- Ideas and Content:** Did I pick an interesting topic and present **facts**, not **opinions**?
- Organization:** Did I answer the questions “Who?,” “What?,” “Where?,” “When?,” and “Why?”
- Voice:** When I read the article aloud, did it sound as if I used enough facts to support the topic?
- Word Choice:** Did I use precise words?
- Sentence Fluency:** Did my writing flow smoothly from one idea to the next?
- Conventions:** Did I use *more* or *most* or other adverbs that compare? Did I check my spelling?