“Just winging it!”
Flying Bat Puppet

Did you know that bats are even better at flying than insects and birds? Insects and birds have more rigid wings that can only move a few directions, while bats’ wings contain more than TWO DOZEN joints that can move in many different directions! This makes bats precise and speedy fliers! Follow these directions to create your very own Flying Bat Puppet to play with and imagine what it’s like to be a bat traveling through the night sky.

Age Group: 6-10 (This activity requires cutting with scissors, so younger bat activists or “bativists” may need assistance)

Supplies Needed:
☐ Activity 3 print-outs (bat wing stencil and bat body stencil)
☐ 2 sheets of brown/black paper
☐ 2 googly eyes (or 1 piece of printer paper)
☐ writing utensil
☐ glue stick or tacky glue
☐ clear tape
☐ scissors
☐ popsicle stick

Before you start: Gather the supplies above and print "bat wing stencil" and "bat body stencil" sheet (page 3). If possible, print on cardstock or sturdy paper to make tracing easier.

The future needs ALL of us!
**Steps for making your "Just winging it" Flying Bat Puppet:**

1. First, take the sheet labeled "bat wing stencil" and "bat body stencil" and cut out with scissors, along the solid lines.
2. Next fold 1 sheet of brown/black paper short end to short end.
3. Lay your "bat wing stencil" on top of your folded paper, so that the stencil stays within the edges, and trace with a writing utensil.
4. Making sure that the paper is still folded shut, cut out the bat wings along the line you traced. Set aside.
5. Fold the second piece of brown/black paper short end to short end.
6. This step is very important! Your folded paper opens on one side and has a fold on the other. Place your "bat body" stencil on your folded paper, so that its orange edge lines up with the fold.
7. Trace with a writing utensil and cut out, being sure NOT to cut along the folded edge.
8. You will notice a drawn rectangle shape on folded edge of your bat's body. Cut this rectangle out now with scissors, creating a hole. (for help with steps 6-7 see video for Activity 3)
9. Next, unfold your bat's body, insert a large popsicle stick through the hole you cut, and tape the popsicle stick to one side with clear tape. Add some additional tape inside to seal your bat's body closed.
10. Now you can attach eyes to your bat! If you have googly eyes, you can attach them with liquid glue (this will take some time to dry). If you don't have googly eyes, you can draw eyes on a piece of scrap paper and attach them with a glue stick.
11. Lastly, use clear tape to attach the wings, with the flat edge of the wing laying along your bat's body and the tip of the wing pointing to the back. Decorate however you like!

**Finished!**

Now you are ready to have fun with your very own "Just winging it" Flying bat puppet!

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