



## Cotton Ball Mama Bat and Pups



**The social behavior of bat families is very interesting! The majority of bats usually only have 1-2 pups a year and the mother has the primary responsibility for raising the pups. So in many species, such as the Mexican free-tailed bat, the mothers and pups live in maternity colonies where the mothers help each other raise their pups. In this activity, we will create a cotton ball bat family, to learn about the special relationship between mothers and pups. Repeat the activity as many times as you like... to make your own maternity colony of bats!**

Age Group: 6 and up (any age can enjoy but younger bat activists or "bativists" may need assistance)

### Supplies Needed:

- Activity 6 print-outs (bat wing stencil)
- 1 sheet of brown or black construction paper
- black marker or pen
- Tacky glue (or any brand of white craft glue)
- scissors
- 4 large brown or black cotton balls
- 12 small brown or black cotton balls
- googly eyes

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

## Steps for making your Cotton Ball Mama Bat and Pups:

1. To create your stencils, take the printed template labeled "bat wing stencil" and cut out with scissors, following the solid black line (younger "bativists" may need help from an adult").
2. Next take a sheet of brown or black construction paper and lay your "bat wing stencil" template on top of your paper, so that the stencil stays within the edges. Trace each stencil with a writing utensil.
3. Trace the stencil labeled "pup" a second time to make wings for the second pup. Remove stencils and set aside.
4. Cut out the bat wing shapes you traced from your construction paper.
5. Lay your bat wing shapes flat on the table. Place a pea-sized dot of tacky glue in the center of each wing pair.
6. Take your four large cotton balls and place 1 large cotton ball on each tacky glue dot. You should have 1 large cotton ball left.
7. To make the larger body of the mama bat, you will need to place a dot of tacky glue on the remaining cotton ball and glue it above the cotton ball with the largest wings.
8. Being careful not to pick up or break your bats while they dry, glue 2 small cotton balls on the top of each bat to create the ears.
9. Next, glue 2 small cotton balls on the bottom of each bat to create the feet.
10. Lastly, glue 2 googly eyes on each of your bats' faces, below your bats' ears.
11. Now all you have to do is let your bat family dry for 30 minutes and they will be ready to play with!

**Finished!**

**Now you have your Mama Bat and Pups! Feel free to repeat this activity to make your own maternity colony of cotton ball bats!**

## Bat Wing Stencil

