

Written by Bohdana Jarošová

Illustrated by Filip Horník

LITTLE BAT AND THE FABULOUS CAVE

BAT BABIES GROW UP FAST.

In two months, Little Bat is as big as its mom but still can't fly. Today, it will take its first flight, holding onto Mom's tummy. Soon, it'll fly alone. Thanks to stretchy skin between its fingers, Little Bat can do amazing tricks, like stopping mid-flight or flying backward!

Hold on tight,
Little Bat. If you
fall, I won't be
able to help you.

I'm flying ... Oh
no, we're going
to smack into
that rock!

BAT'S WING:

1. THUMB
2. DIGITS
3. MEMBRANE


STALACTITE

STALAGNATE

STALAGMITE

KARST CAVES ARE BEAUTIFUL.

Water makes patterns on the walls. Ceilings have shapes like curtains, organ pipes, and popcorn-like balls. Small dripstones are called „straws.“ Big ones hanging are called stalactites, and those growing up are stalagmites. Sometimes, they form a rare column called a stalagnate.



I can't see a thing,
but I know exactly
where I'm flying.
How strange ...

Come play
hide-and-seek,
Little Bat.
You're "it"!

LITTLE BAT HAS BIG, MOVABLE EARS.

Bats can fly in complete darkness using echolocation. They make high-pitched sounds that bounce off walls and return as echoes. Little Bat uses this skill to navigate the cave and find food, like moths and beetles, without bumping into anything.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT PITCH-DARKNESS IS LIKE?

Pitch-darkness is so black that you can't see your hand in front of your face. That's the darkness Little Bat lives in. Would you be scared in his cave? Little Bat isn't. It's never alone – it has lots of friends.

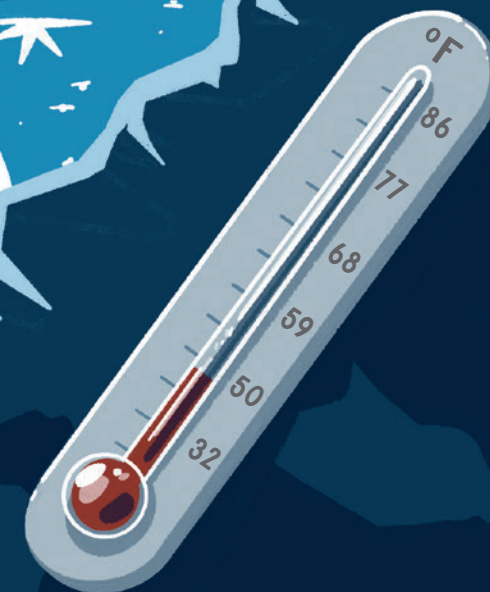
LITTLE BAT SLEEPS DURING THE DAY.

After Little Bat falls asleep, it gets cold and wraps its wings around itself. At night, it wakes up to hunt, shaking its body to warm up. Bats sleep upside down so they can fly off quickly if danger comes.

Get up, boys and girls. Rise and shine – it's breakfast time!

IT'S COLD AND DAMP IN THE CAVE.

Although it may be scorching outside, the cave stays around 50°F, like an old cellar. The cold winter air lingers at the bottom, too strong for summer heat to push out. Underground streams form waterfalls and lakes, some with fish. Some caves are so cold that everything freezes, turning waterfalls into icefalls.





Burp! I'm stuffed!
I hope my legs can
keep me hanging
and I don't fall.

Don't worry,
Little Bat. Our legs
may be thin, but
our tendons are as
strong as rope.

Be quiet
and go to
sleep!

Shh!!

WINTER IS COMING.

It's freezing outside, but the cave stays the same. With no insects left, Little Bat and its friends prepare to hibernate. They need more space than in the nursery. To survive months without food, they store energy – breathing and heartbeats slow until spring.

PREHISTORIC HUMANS LIVED IN CAVES.

Firepits, tools, and wall paintings prove it. In the dark, humans drew and carved animals into rock. Today, we visit as tourists, following lit paths. If you go, look up and wave – just don't wake the bats!



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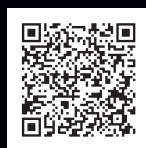
**COME MEET THIS FUNNY LITTLE
MOUSE-EARED BAT.**

Little Bat is still new to this world. What interests it most is the cave where it was born. Little Bat and its friends have explored the cave's every nook and cranny. They know the best spots for hide-and-seek, where the juiciest caterpillars are, and where the great dragon sits. If you want to know what life in a bat's home is like, open this book right now. Oh look – Little Bat is just now waking up ...

Also available:



More info:



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