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Lesson 22

Genre: Informational Narrative

Bat Loves the Night

Genre: Magazine Article

Bottlenose Dolphins
Sequence

Remember that **sequence** is the order in which events happen. To help you figure out the sequence, look for time-order words such as *first, next, then, later,* and *finally.* Dates and times can also help you keep track of the sequence of events.

Knowing the sequence of events can help you better understand how events are connected.

Tip

In nonfiction writing, events are often described in time order, or the order in which they happen.
Try This

Egyptian fruit bats are found in Africa and parts of Asia. They make their homes in trees, between rocks, and even in empty buildings.

At night the Egyptian fruit bats fly through rainforests. They feed on the plentiful fruits and flowers. After they land on a flower, a powder called pollen sticks to their bodies. When they go to another flower, they spread the pollen. Later, the plants use the pollen to produce fruit.

Read the article below. Tell how to complete the sequence chart to show the order of events.

- First
  The Egyptian fruit bat lands on a flower.
- Next
- Then
- Finally

Look back at this passage. What do the bats do before they land on flowers?
Night Flyers

Warblers and other songbirds fly by night from their summer nesting grounds to their winter feeding grounds. They make a _nocturnal_ journey that takes them hundreds of miles from Canada and Alaska in North America to Venezuela and Colombia in northern South America. It takes a great _effort_ to fly that distance. To keep up its strength, the bird feeds, rests, or _dozes_ during the day.

A warbler _swoops_ down to eat caterpillars and other insects on trees.
The tiny songbirds must pay attention to **detail** on their journey. They use the light of the stars to help guide them. As they fly, they keep in touch with each other by singing. They do not sing full songs but make little chirps to let each other know where they are.

Blackpoll warblers may have the longest journey. Their **fluttering** wings carry them more than 14,000 miles round-trip!
Genre Study

Informational narratives present information in the form of a story. Look for

- facts about a topic.
- events told in time order.

Comprehension Strategy

Monitor comprehension—If you cannot figure out a word, reread the sentences that come before it.
Bat is waking, upside down as usual, hanging by her toenails.

Her beady eyes open. Her pixie ears twitch.

She shakes her thistledown fur.

She unfurls her wings, made of skin so fine the finger bones inside show through.

The pipistrelle bat’s body is no bigger than your thumb.

A bat’s wing is its arm and hand. Four extra-long fingers support the skin of the wing.
Now she unhooks her toes and drops into black space. With a sound like a tiny umbrella opening, she flaps her wings.

Bat is flying.

Bats’ toes are shaped like hooks, so it’s no effort for a bat to hang upside down.
Out!

Out under the broken tile into the nighttime garden.

Over bushes, under trees, between fence posts, through the tangled hedge she swoops untouched. Bat is at home in the darkness as a fish is in the water. She doesn’t need to see—she can hear where she is going.

Bats can see. But in the dark, good ears are more useful than eyes.
Bat shouts as she flies, louder than a hammer blow, higher than a squeak. She beams her voice around her like a flashlight, and the echoes come singing back. They carry a sound picture of all her voice has touched. Listening hard, Bat can hear every detail, the smallest twigs, the shape of leaves.

Using sound to find your way like this is called echolocation. The noise bats make when they shout is too high for humans to hear.
Gliding and fluttering back and forth, she shouts her torch of sound among the trees, listening for her supper.

All is still. . . .
Then a fat moth takes flight below her.
Bat plunges, fast as blinking, and grabs it in her open mouth.

But the moth’s pearly scales are moon-dust slippery. It slithers from between her teeth.

Bat dives, nets it with a wing tip, scoops it to her mouth.
This time she bites hard. Its wings fall away, like the wrapper from a candy. In a moment the moth is eaten. Bat sneezes. The dusty scales got up her nose.

A bat can eat dozens of big moths in a single night—or thousands of tiny flies, gnats, and mosquitoes.

Most species of bats eat insects, but there are some that eat fruit, fish, frogs, even blood!
Hunting time has run out. The dark will soon be gone. In the east, the sky is getting light. It's past Bat's bedtime.

She flies to the roof in the last shadows and swoops in under the broken tile.

The place where bats sleep in the day is called a roost. It can be in a building, a cave, or a tree, so long as it's dry and safe.
Baby bats can’t fly. Sometimes mother bats carry their babies when they go out, but mostly the babies stay behind in the roost and crowd together to keep warm.

Inside, there are squeakings. Fifty hungry batlings hang in a huddle, hooked to a rafter by oversized feet. Bat lands and pushes in among them, toes first, upside down again.

Bat knows her baby’s voice, and calls to it. The velvet scrap batling climbs aboard and clings to Bat’s fur by its coat-hanger feet. Wrapped in her leathery wings, the baby snuggles to sleep.

Baby bats drink mother’s milk until they learn to fly at a few weeks old. Then they can leave the roost at night to find their own food.
Bats are **nocturnal**. That means they rest by day and come out at night to search for food.

Outside, the birds are singing. The flowers turn their faces to the sun. But inside the roof hole, the darkness stays. Bat **dozes** with her batling, waiting.

When the tide of night rises again, Bat will wake and plunge into the blackness, shouting.

Bat loves the night.
Think Critically

1. What does a bat do each night? Tell the main events in order. **SEQUENCE**

2. Do you think the author wrote this story to entertain, to inform, or both? Explain your answer. **AUTHOR’S PURPOSE**

3. Do you think your community should protect places where bats can live? Why or why not? **EXPRESS PERSONAL OPINIONS**

4. Why do bats hunt for moths and insects at night? **DRAW CONCLUSIONS**

5. **WRITE** Why do baby bats need other bats to survive? Use details and examples from the selection to explain your answer. **SHORT RESPONSE**
Meet the Author

NICOLA DAVIES

Nicola Davies has always been interested in animals. As a child, she spent much of her time in the garden with her grandfather. There, among the flowers, she loved to look at ants and bird nests.

After college, Nicola Davies worked as a zoologist. She studied bats, geese, and whales. She also wanted to write about animals, but many years passed before she did. Now Nicola Davies combines her love of animals and her writing. She has written books about sharks, turtles, and polar bears.

Nicola Davies lives in Wales. At night, she loves to watch the bats that nest in the roof of her cottage.
Meet the Illustrator

SARAH FOX-DAVIES

Sarah Fox-Davies likes to draw animals in their natural environments. Her drawings of bats, beavers, bears, and other animals have appeared in many different magazines and children’s books. She also illustrates nature and gardening books. Sarah Fox-Davies used pencils and watercolors to create the realistic illustrations for this book.

Fox-Davies lives in Wales. While she was making the illustrations for *Bat Loves the Night*, a bat flew into her studio. It landed right on her desk!
Dolphins are big talkers! They spend lots of time yapping to each other under water in the ocean. Every dolphin is born with a special whistle, or clicking sound. A mother dolphin and her baby use the sounds to find each other if they separate. Dolphins call each other by name when they play by copying the sound of their friends' whistle.
The sounds that dolphins make are not just for talking. They use clicking sounds to find their food. The sounds travel from the dolphin’s head, then bounce off fish, or other things the dolphin eats. When the sounds return, the dolphin knows where the food is. This skill is called echolocation. (An echo is a sound that bounces off something so you hear it again. Location means “place.”) What an awesome way to find a tasty treat!
Comparing Texts

1. How do bats and dolphins use echolocation differently? How do they use it in the same way?

2. Did you learn anything that changed your opinion about bats? Explain your answer.

3. In “Bat Loves the Night,” what does the bat need to survive?

Vocabulary Review

Word Pairs
Work with a partner. Write each Vocabulary Word on a card. Place the cards face down. Take turns flipping over two cards and writing a sentence that uses both words. Read your sentences to your partner and decide whether the Vocabulary Words are used correctly.
Fluency Practice

Repeated Reading
Choose a section of “Bat Loves the Night.” Use a stopwatch to time yourself as you read. Try to improve your reading time as you practice the section. Repeat the section until you can read it with no mistakes.

Writing

Write an Explanation
Write an explanation of how the bat in “Bat Loves the Night” hunts for food. Use the chart to help you organize the sequence of events.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First</th>
<th>Next</th>
<th>Then</th>
<th>Finally</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

My Writing Checklist

- I tell events in the order they happen.
- My sentences connect to the main idea.