CONNECTION® to Kindergarten

B

Literacy
Writing
Math
Science
Social Studies
Fine Arts

KAMICO®
Instructional Media

CONNECTION® to Kindergarten
DAY 1 of 5

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KAMICO®
Instructional Media, Inc.

KAMICO® Instructional Media, Inc.
P.O. Box 1143
Salado, Texas 76571
Telephone: 254.947.7283 Fax: 254.947.7284
E-mail: kmichael@kamico.com Website: https://www.kamico.com

KAMICO® Instructional Media, Inc.
Kindergarten Curriculum
Introduction

As your students embark on the incredible learning experience that is the kindergarten year, you will find that KAMICO's *Kindergarten Curriculum* will meet their needs with a variety of stimulating and fulfilling child-centered activities. The series was developed so that it can stand alone as a comprehensive curriculum or be used as a supplement to another curriculum. The lessons in this series will help your students build a foundation of basic skills, develop critical-thinking strategies, and expand their creativity--all of which help children become successful lifelong learners.

KAMICO's *Kindergarten Curriculum* includes the following:

* **Literacy Strand**--Students build and expand on a combination of skills that includes letter recognition and discrimination, letter-sound association, phonics, phonological and phonemic awareness, language play, print awareness, vocabulary usage, reading comprehension, and literature appreciation. The fun-filled activities will spark students' interest in reading and writing.
* **Writing Strand**--Students engage in multisensory gross and fine motor activities that help them learn letter formation. Writing activities are correlated with the Literacy Strand so that students have a clear understanding that printed text represents spoken language.
* **Mathematics Strand**--Students have the opportunity to participate in real-world, hands-on math activities that help them think critically, learn to use creative problem solving, and effectively communicate mathematical concepts and solutions.
* **Science Strand**--Students take part in a variety of experiments and explorations that present science processes and concepts in fun, nonthreatening thematic units. Each unit has a main character who represents the science theme and is used to tie together all of the strands in this curriculum.
* **Social Studies Strand**--Students develop multicultural and environmental awareness and appreciation while building their understanding of geography through the use of charts, graphs, maps, and globes.
* **Fine Arts/Physical Education Strand**--Students enjoy learning original songs, producing pieces of art, and actively participating in movement and creative dramatics activities that enhance learning and reinforce the skills that are learned in the other strands.
* **Assessments**--The series includes a variety of assessment opportunities, including an easy-to-use Recognition Skills Assessment and a Curriculum Assessment Rubric that may be used as pretests and posttests.

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Book Bb
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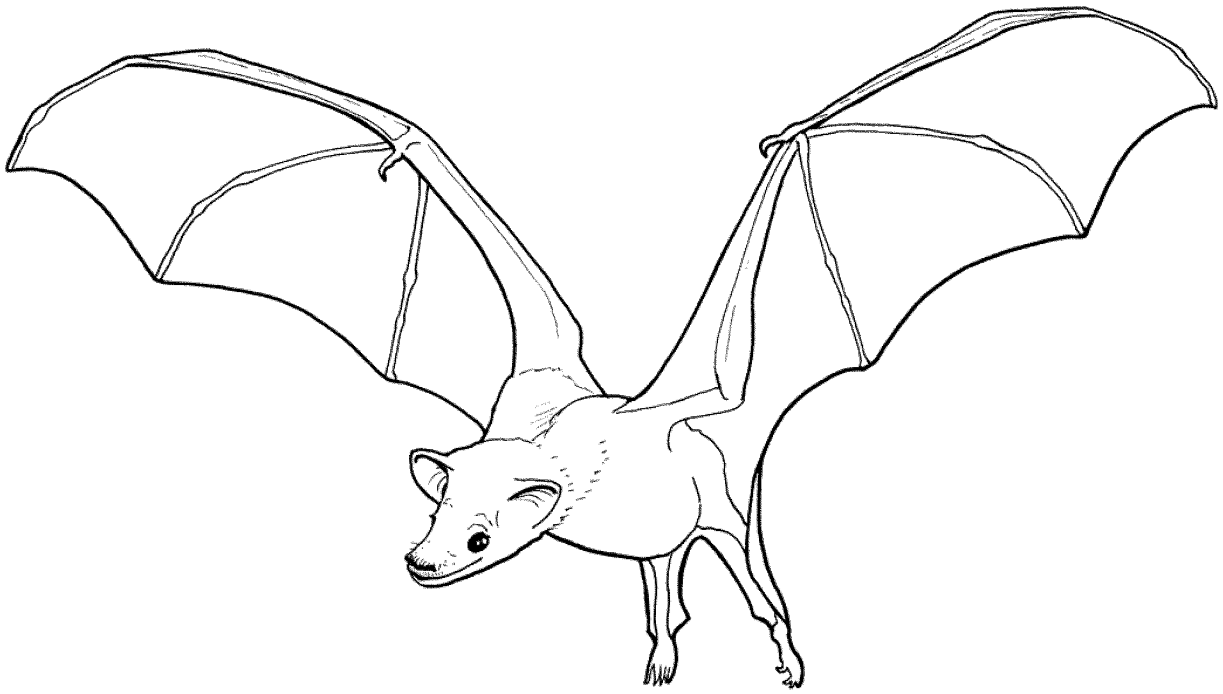
Parent Homework Letter

Dear Parents:

This week we are learning about the letter **Bb**. We have met our letter buddy, Babs Bat.



Please reinforce what your child is learning at school by completing each night's homework activity. Then sign the form and have your child return it the next school day. Thanks for your help!

Babs Bat
Background Information for the Teacher

Despite significant variations in size, diet, and habits, all bats have several features in common. As with all mammals, they are warm blooded, have fur, give birth to live young, and nurse their babies with milk. Unlike other mammals, however, bats can truly fly, as opposed to others, such as the so-called flying squirrel, which merely glide on flaps of skin. Although nocturnal, bats cannot see well in the dark. They avoid obstacles and find their food by a process called echolocation. In echolocation, bats send out a high frequency sound wave that bounces off any object it hits and is returned to specialized organs on the bat's head. By calculating the return, the bat can sense both stationary objects and moving prey. Bats cannot survive extremely cold weather. Those who live where the weather becomes cold in the winter either hibernate or migrate.

Bats are divided into megabats (170 species) and microbats (780 species). As the names imply, the former type is the larger. Megabats feed on plant parts and are found only in the tropics of the Old World. They have no need to migrate. Using their keen sense of smell and echolocation, they locate the fruit and nectar that forms the basis for their diet. Some are essential in pollinating, and it is estimated that the nectar-eating bats pollinate over three hundred different tropical plants, such as wild bananas, avocados, dates, figs, mangoes, and cashews. Fruit eating megabats are important because they disperse seeds in their guano, making them important for the reforestation of cleared land. Although most bats cause little damage, some fruit-eating bats, such as Australia's flying foxes, are considered serious fruit pests.

Microbats are almost exclusively insectivores. Although some types eat mice, fish, frogs, or even small birds, the majority of them eat flying insects, which they find by echolocation. By consuming large amounts of insects, microbats perform the beneficial duty of significantly reducing insect pests. A single microbat can consume up to 600 mosquitoes an hour, and a large bat colony can consume 250 tons of insects in a single night. By reducing the number of insects, bats reduce the diseases spread by them and the damage they do to crops.

Our buddy Babs is known as a lesser long-nosed bat, so named because the head is somewhat elongated to permit the bat to obtain nectar. Such bats play a vital role in the ecosystem of the Sonoran Desert. They have varied appetites, eating insects, fruit, and nectar. Because these bats drink nectar from various flowers, such as that of the saguaro cactus, they are important in pollination. When they later eat the ripened fruits, their guano helps disperse seeds.

Despite their beneficial roles in the ecosystem, bats enjoy a fearsome reputation.

Misunderstood and feared for years, they were often painted in the grimmest colors. The vampire Dracula, for example, turned into a bat, pandering to the mistaken belief that all bats drink blood. About the only danger bats present to humans, however, is the rare possibility of rabies. Otherwise, they are among the very beneficial mammals upon which both man and the rest of the natural world depend.