HyperStudio

Bats

Introduction

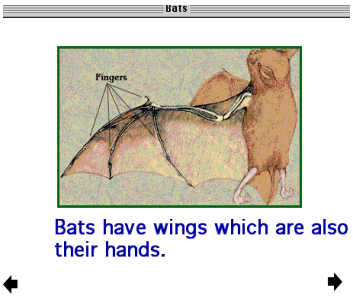
A favorite book in preschool classrooms is *Stellaluna*, the story of a baby bat who gets temporarily separated from her mother. Since the story is based on facts about bats and their differences with birds, children become curious about these animals. A *HyperStudio* stack can be created to provide information on bats which children can explore in a playful way.

Materials

- Computer
- *HyperStudio*
- Internet access for downloading pictures of bats from websites

Ahead of Time

- Create a *HyperStudio* stack about bats based on facts and real photos.
- Browse Internet sites for information on bats and pictures which can be used in the stack. To save an image, click and hold the mouse down on the image and a pop-up menu will give the option of copying or saving the image. Save the image as a PICT file to your desktop or hard drive.
- Add a simple sentence of text to each page.
- Add animation to keep children's attention. If possible, videotape of bats can be included.
- Record children's voices talking about the pictures.
- Record the children's or the teacher's voice reading a simple sentence about bats for each page.
- Print a copy of the book.



Introductory Activity

Read *Stellaluna*, the popular children's book by Janell Cannon. Themes throughout the book, such as family, friends, differences, and the environment, can be related to children's own experiences. Talk about bats, what they eat, how they live, and the good things they do for people. Read the "Bats" book which was made with *HyperStudio*.

Computer Activity

Encourage children to explore the "Bats" stack in small groups. The children can look at the printed version of the book while they are at the computer. Talk about how these bats relate to Stellaluna. For children who need alternate access, an *Intellipics* overlay can be used with the IntelliKeys. Make the overlay by copying selected images from the stack and pasting them into *Intellipics*. Add animation to the picture if desired. Record the

sentence which goes with the picture. When a selection is made on the overlay, the picture appears and the sentence is read.

Extended Activity

- Print books from the *HyperStudio* program and circulate a copy among the families so children can read about bats at home and share their bat play experiences with family members. Place a copy of the book in the reading center so that children can read it during free play.
- Adapt a copy of the *HyperStudio* book by adding tactile materials to pages for children with visual impairment and for those who are tactile learners. Puffy paint can be used to outline features on each page, such as the bat's ears, wings, fingers, and tongue. Furry material can be added to the page which tells about the bat's fur.
- Make bat wings out of paper bags so that the children can "fly" around the classroom as bats.
- Puppets from *Stellaluna* or puppets of bats can be used during dramatic play activities.
- A bat cave can be made out of a large refrigerator box and decorated on the inside with glow-in-the-dark stickers of stars. Children can play with flashlights in the cave to explore movements in the dark.
- Children can make play dough bat shapes or other play dough creations.
- Art materials can be used to express thoughts and feelings about bats.
- Writing materials should be available so that children can write a story about bats or add writing to their drawings.

Summary

Using the "Bats" *HyperStudio* stack, children have an opportunity to learn about bats in an interactive way. By including facts and real pictures of bats, children are encouraged to explore bats' features and movements. This activity works well as a complement to the book or software versions of *Stellaluna*.