



Name: _____

Class: _____

Bats are the only mammals capable of sustained flight. They use echolocation to navigate and hunt insects in the dark.

Habitat:

They live in woodlands, caves and old buildings. They roost in trees or loft spaces during the day and forage during the night.

Food:

They eat insects such as moths, beetles and midges. Some species also eat fruit or nectar.

Population / Conservation:

Many bat species are protected due to declining numbers from habitat loss and pesticide use.

Fun Fact:

Bats can eat up to 1,000 insects in an hour! They are also the only mammals that can fly.

In the South Downs...

Species: barbastelle, bechstein, grey long-eared, natterers, serotine, common pipistrelle

- **Barn Renovation Projects:** Grants have been awarded to renovate barns in West Sussex, providing vital roosting sites for greater horseshoe bats.
- **Sussex Bat Group Initiatives:** The group conducts bat box schemes, improves roost sites and organizes educational events to raise awareness.
- **Monitoring and Research:** Surveys and research are conducted to monitor bat populations and inform conservation strategies.

New words and definitions:

What five words would you use to describe bats?



Name: _____

Class: _____

Bees

are winged insects best known for their role as pollinators. There are over 270 species of bee in the UK (and only one of those make honey!)

Habitat:

They live in gardens, meadows or woodlands; nesting in hollow trees or underground burrows.

Food:

Nectar and pollen from flowers.

Population / Conservation:

Bee populations are declining due to habitat loss, pesticide use and disease. Conservation efforts include planting wildflowers and reducing pesticide use.

Fun Fact:

Bumblebees have smelly feet! They leave scent marks on flowers they have visited; other bumblebees detect this and know when a particular flower has no nectar left.

In the South Downs...

potter flower bee, downland furrow bee, bumblebees, large scabious mining bee, small scabious mining bee

Conservation initiatives include:

- *Beelines Project: This initiative plants wildflower corridors to connect species-rich chalk grassland sites, providing essential forage for bees.*
- *Wildflower Habitat Creation: Over 66 hectares of wildflower habitats have been established, boosting bee populations and other pollinators.*
- *Community Engagement: Local communities are involved in planting and maintaining these habitats, fostering a collective effort in bee conservation.*

New words and definitions:

What five words would you use to describe bees?



Name: _____
 Class: _____

Birds are warm-blooded vertebrates with feathers, beaks, and wings, which most use to fly. They lay eggs and often build nests to protect their young.

Habitat:
 Forests, wetlands, grasslands and urban areas. They nest in trees, cliffs, or the ground.

Food:
 Seeds, insects, fruits and small animals, depending on the species.

Population / Conservation:
 Many bird species are in decline due to habitat loss, climate change and pollution. Conservation efforts focus on habitat restoration and protection.

Fun Fact:
 Some birds, like the Arctic Tern, migrate thousands of miles each year. The common swift can stay airborne for up to 10 months.

In the South Downs...
Species: yellowhammer, barn owl, grey partridge, corn bunting, skylark, lapwing, turtle dove

Conservation initiatives include:

- *Farmland Bird Initiative: Working with farmers to create safe nesting and feeding areas, helping species such as skylark, corn bunting, yellowhammer, and grey partridge recover.*
- *Heathland Bird Protection: Managing heathlands and reducing disturbance to boost numbers of rare ground-nesting birds like Dartford warbler, nightjar, and woodlark.*
- *Wetland and Nest Box Projects: Restoring wetlands and ponds for wading birds, while installing barn owl and little owl nest boxes to increase breeding sites.*

New words and definitions:

What five words would you use to describe birds?



Name: _____

Class: _____

Butterflies are insects with large, often brightly-coloured wings. They go through four life stages: egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, and adult butterfly.

Habitat:

Grasslands, meadows, hedgerows and gardens. They need sunny, open spaces with plenty of wildflowers.

Food:

Adult butterflies drink flower nectar; caterpillars eat specific plants (e.g.: horseshoe vetch for the Adonis Blue).

Population / Conservation:

Butterfly numbers can go up and down depending on climate and habitat. They are important indicators of environmental health.

Fun Fact:

Butterflies taste with their feet! Some species migrate long distances across continents.

In the South Downs...

Species: adonis blue, dingy skipper, long-tailed blue, silver studded blue, small blue, pearl bordered fritillary, grayling

Conservation initiatives include:

- **Wildflower Corridors:** Beelines links chalk grasslands with wildflower strips and restored margins, helping species like Adonis Blue and Chalk Hill Blue.
- **Woodland Species Work:** Fritillaries for the Future restores woodland edges and clears scrub to support Pearl-bordered Fritillaries.
- **Wildlife-Friendly Sites:** Places like Pyecombe Golf Club use wildflower-rich banks and careful mowing to boost rare butterfly numbers.





New words and definitions:

What five words would you use to describe butterflies?

Name: _____
 Class: _____

READY TO WRITE YOUR OWN SPECIES STORY?

Which species are you most interested in writing about? Choose one and then write your reason below!

 Bees <input type="radio"/>	 Birds <input type="radio"/>	 Butterflies <input type="radio"/>	 BATS <input type="radio"/>
<hr/>			
<hr/>			
<hr/>			

CHOOSE A PROMPT *And then write why you chose it in the lines below!*

<input type="radio"/>	Diary of Change: Write a diary entry from the point of view of your chosen species finally receiving help. Use figurative language to make it come to life!
<input type="radio"/>	The Great Journey: Imagine your species is migrating. Tell the story of their journey – the challenges, the dangers, and the hopes.
<input type="radio"/>	We Are... Write from the perspective of a group – “we” instead of “I.” How does it feel to be part of a swarm, a flock, or a colony?
<input type="radio"/>	A Symbol for the World: What could your species symbolise? Write a short piece showing what lessons they carry for human beings and how to become better.
<input type="radio"/>	Message to Humans: If your species could speak, what message would it send us? What can we do to improve their life? What can we do to protect their home?
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Think back to what you’ve read before, especially in the species stories. What forms or literary devices would you like to try e.g.: diary entry, rhyme, imagery etc.? List below!

NOW.... GO MAKE SOMETHING! AND REMEMBER TO HAVE FUN!



This is just the beginning...!

There are many organisations dedicated to supporting nature in the UK, helping us protect the animals and ecosystems around us.

To find out more about South Downs National Park Authority and the work they do, check out the website on: www.southdowns.gov.uk You can also find out about how to do your part and volunteer at <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/learning-and-youth-volunteering/youth-volunteering/>

The Wildlife Trusts is a federation of 46 independent organisations all working together to protect nature in the UK. You can find out more here: www.wildlifetrusts.org

Did you enjoy the Species Stories? You can read more about Writing Our Legacy at: <https://writingourlegacy.org.uk>

You can find out more about each of the species below!

Bees

The Bumblebee Conservation Trust at: www.bumblebeeconservation.org

The Bee Friendly Trust at: <https://beefriendlytrust.org>

The British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) at: www.bbka.org.uk

Bees Abroad at: <https://beesabroad.org.uk>

Bats

Bat Conservation Trust at: www.bats.org.uk

National Bat Monitoring Programme at: <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/national-bat-monitoring-programme/>

Birds

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds at: www.rspb.org.uk

People's Trust for Endangered Species at: <https://ptes.org>

British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) at: www.bto.org

Butterflies

Butterfly Conservation at: <https://butterfly-conservation.org/our-work>

Bug Life at: www.buglife.org.uk