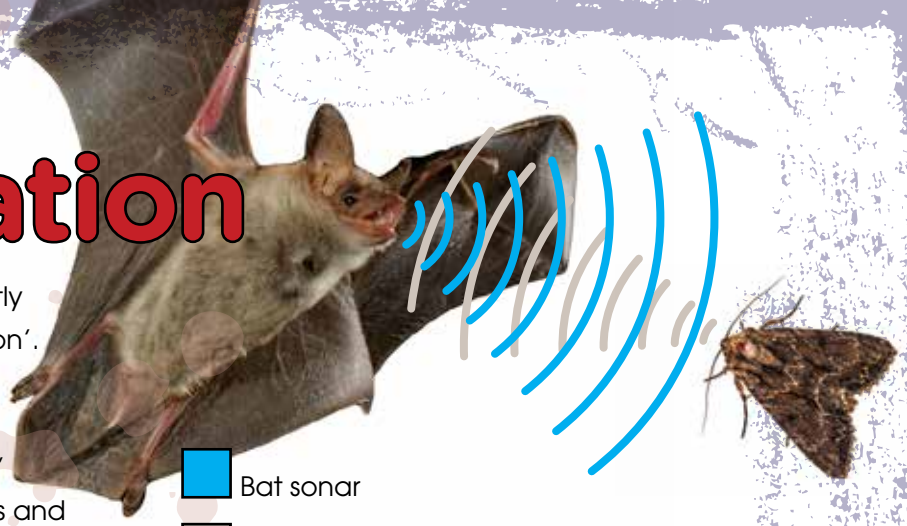
Echolocation



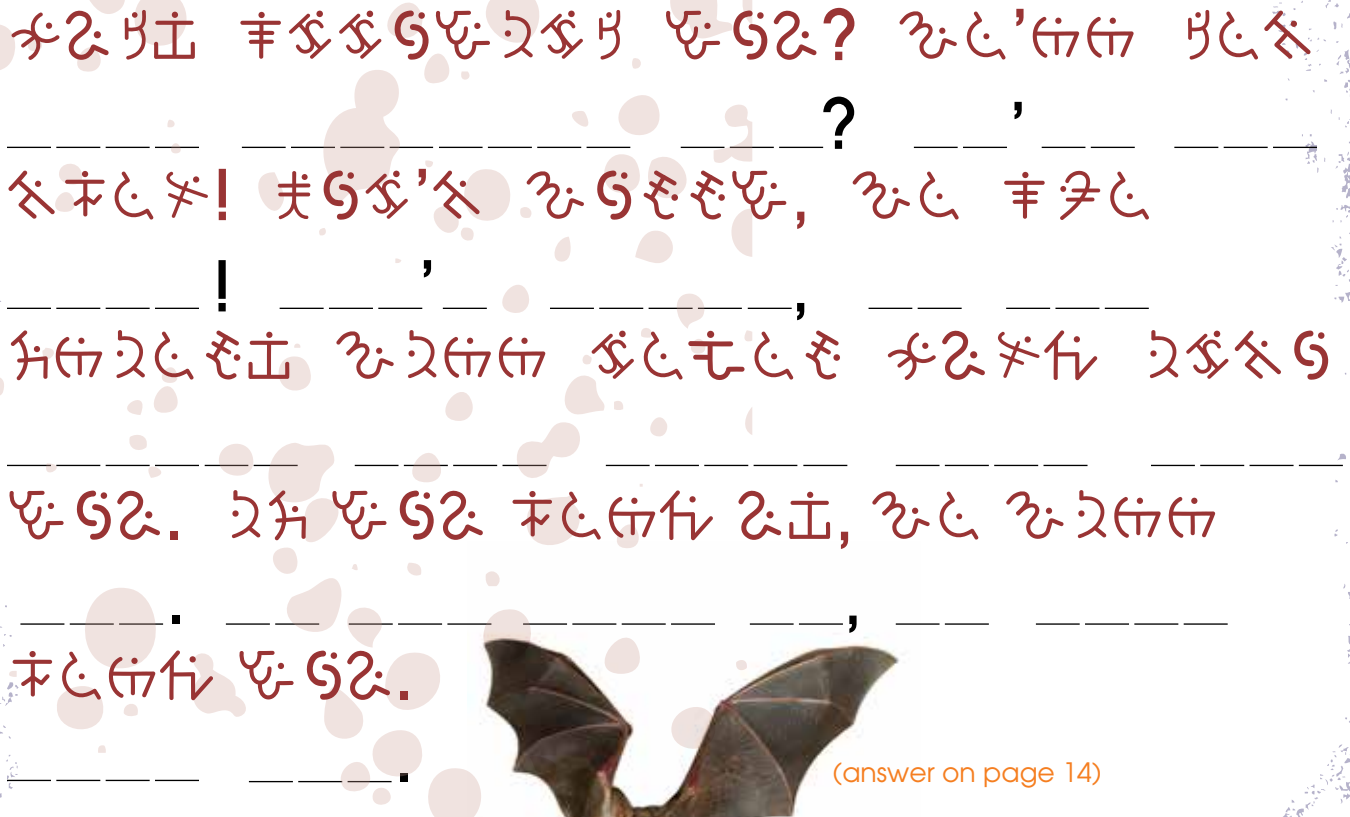
Bats have excellent eyesight, but mostly find their way around by 'echo-location'. They send out ultrasonic sound waves which bounce off objects in their path and come back as echoes to the bats' ears, telling them how big the object is and how far away. The faster the echo comes back, the closer the object is.

Bat sonar

Returning sound waves

Bats also have social calls to 'talk' to each other. Adult humans cannot hear these calls as they are too high-pitched, but children can. Anytime you think there might be bats flying around use your superhuman hearing to listen for their squeaks.

This is what the bats might be saying to you! Use the secret code below to read the message.



(answer on page 14)

Secret Message Code

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z

Photo credits: Bat: JAH, istock • Moth: vovashevchuk, istock