



Making a Bat Model

If you do not have access to one of the Project EduBat trunks, you may want to make your own bat models for the activity, “Working the Night Shift – Biometric Clues.” These are easy and fun to make. Included below, you will find templates for bats with a “normal” ear length and one with a “very long” ear length. We recommend that you use felt to make your bat models as this fabric is relatively inexpensive, fairly sturdy, easy to find online or in stores, and comes in a variety of colors. Here are some basic instructions.

Bat Body

1. Cut out the bat body outline and the pouch outline.
2. Use these to cut out bat shapes on the appropriate color of felt (brown, tan, cream, reddish, gray, etc.)
3. Sew the bottom three sides of the pouch to the bat outline in the center of the body.
4. Fill the pouch with fine materials until the bat is at the proper weight. We recommend using BBs, sand, round split shot fishing sinkers, or other small materials. Be sure to measure the bat using a scale and get an accurate weight!
5. Once the bat is the appropriate weight, sew the top of the pouch closed.

Bat Forearm

1. Cut toothpicks to the correct length for each bat species you are making. We recommend using flat toothpicks as they will be easier to sew onto the bat body.
2. Add several stitches around the toothpick to secure it to the bat’s body in the location of the forearm.
3. Add a touch of color to the end of the toothpick and create an identification key. That way, you will always know which bat model is which bat species (without having to weigh the bat and measure the forearm length).



Bat Outline 1 - "normal" ear length
for bats such as Indiana, little
brown, big brown, and gray.

Pouch
Outline



Bat Outline 2 - "very long" ear
length for bats such as Virginia big-
eared or Townsend's big-eared.

Pouch
Outline

Finished Bat Models

