

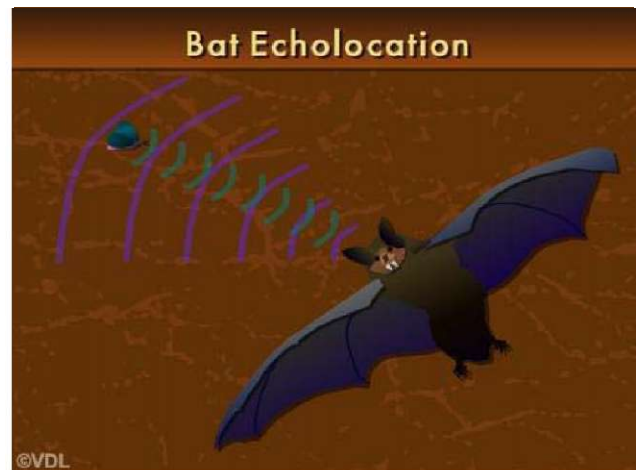
Bats use their ears to "see" in the dark. How do they do this? They use their ears for something called *echolocation*. Notice the two smaller words that make up this bigger word—*echo* and *location*. Bats listen for an **echo**, or reflected sound, to find where an object is.

Bats send out sound waves. These sound waves have a high pitch that humans cannot hear. However, the bats can hear the sounds. Like all sound waves, these high-pitched sounds can **reflect**, or bounce, off solid surfaces.

The solid surface can be anything in the bat's path. For example, the sound waves from a bat might reflect off an insect. When the bat hears the reflected sound, it knows that there is something nearby.

The original sound waves travel from the bat to the insect. The reflected sound waves travel from the insect back to the bat. The bat hears the original sound. Then it hears the echo shortly afterward.

Bats use echoes to tell where and how far away objects are. Sometimes the object is an insect flying through the air. Because of echolocation, the bat can catch the insect, even in the dark.



Sound waves travel from the bat to the insect. Then they reflect off the insect and back to the bat.