

Pelican Pete's Backyard Adventures™

Nature Discoveries and Outdoor Fun

Sonic Sounds



PELICAN PETE
Helping Children and Nature Meet

DID YOU KNOW?

Insect-eating bats (*Microchiroptera*) use echolocation to navigate and hunt. They make a high-pitched ultrasonic sound humans cannot hear. The sound bounces off objects and creates echoes. The echoes enable the bat to judge the distance, movement, and size of everything in its path.

Each species uses a different pattern and frequency. Even when thousands of bats are leaving a cave together, they are able to distinguish their own sounds and echoes from all the others!

GET OUTDOORS!

Listen to the sounds of the animals in your backyard and neighborhood. Can you hear bees buzzing? Squirrels chattering? Owls hooting?

Close your eyes. Do you hear more sounds? Guess what animals are making them. Did you guess correctly? How do you know?

Play Bat and Bugs! Take turns being Bat. Close your eyes, stand within a marked boundary, and say, "Bugs, bugs, where are you?" The other players then make insect noises and Bat locates them by tracking their sounds. How fast can you find all of the bugs?

*When evening comes and darkness nears,
Cute little bats prick up their ears
Catching the sounds I cannot hear—
Echoes of insects far and near!*

