

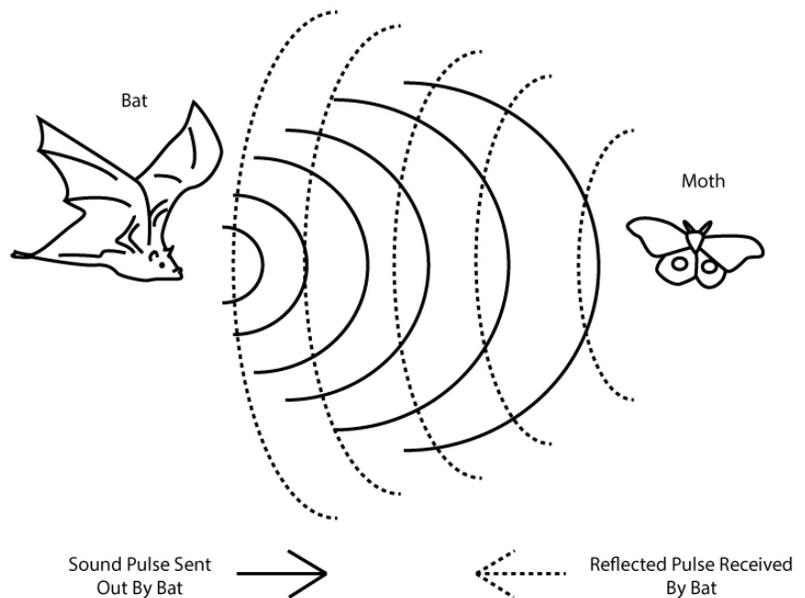
# The World at Night

It is late at night. You are sound asleep in your bed. The only light outside is coming from the moon and a few streetlights. It seems like the whole world around you is asleep. But is it?

## Animals at Night

There are many things happening outside at night. Many animals **move** around and **feed** while we sleep. These animals are called **nocturnal** animals. You may see some nocturnal animals during daylight, but most spend the day resting and sleeping.

Nocturnal animals use all their **senses** when they are out at night. But some senses are more **important** than others. Some animals, such as **owls**, can see very well at night. They have excellent **eyesight**. **Field mice** and **coyotes** have an excellent sense of **smell** that helps them find food at night. **Red foxes** and **skunks** depend a lot on their **hearing**.



**Bats** use sound to find their way around at night and **catch insects** to eat. They send out **high-pitched sounds** that bounce off nearby objects. They hear the **echoes** and use them to figure out where the objects are. Bats can do something special to help them do this. Their ears have **flaps**. The flaps cover their ears when they first make the sounds, and uncover them after. This way the bats know which sound is the one they are sending out and which sound is the one bouncing back.

Many insects such as moths, fireflies, mosquitoes, and crickets are nocturnal. Some people think all nocturnal insects are attracted to light. Some insects such as moths, are attracted by light, but many are not—they avoid light.

## Plants at Night

**Plants** are also very **active** at night. During the day, they use **sunlight** to make their own **food**. At night, they change the food they make into **energy** to grow. Some plants only **bloom** at night. During the day, their flowers are **closed**. And some plants only release their **scent**, or smell, after the sun goes down.

