Arizona Wildlife Podcast Comprehension Activity
Episode 16: Urban Bats

Part A: *Each statement below is incorrect. Determine what is wrong with each one and make changes so they will be correct.*

1. Bat roosts tend to be very hot and ~~dry~~ (humid).

2. Mexican free-tailed bats are migratory, coming to Arizona during the ~~cold winter~~ (warm summer) months.

3. The majority of the world's bat species are ~~nectar-feeders~~ (insect-eaters).

Part B: *Match the bat in the left-hand column with the type of food it eats from the right-hand column. Some foods may be used more than once while others may not be used at all.*

Some Arizona Bat Species	Some Bat Food Sources
1. Lesser Long-nosed Bat	a. Blood
2. Mexican Free-tailed Bat	b. Insects
3. Mexican Long-tongued Bat	c. Pollen and Nectar
4. Western Pipistrelle	d. Small Mammals and Lizards

Part C: *Answer each question below in complete sentences. The answers are not necessarily included in the content. They may require some critical thinking.*

1. Why do so many bats tend to use the same roosts?

Bats are very selective about the conditions for their roosts. They require very specific temperatures, air flow, etc. There are not many locations that can fulfill the requirements. Therefore, when a suitable site is found, many bats will use it. In addition, many species of bats require a large colony. More bats help them get hot and humid conditions.

2. How bats are beneficial.

Answers will vary. Most of the world's bat species are insectivorous. Large colonies can eat up to twenty tons of insects each night. This helps control the spread of insect-borne illnesses such as malaria and West Nile virus. Other bats are nectar-feeders. In the process of eating the nectar, they will also help pollinate the plants.

3. Explain some of the differences between Mexican free-tailed bats and Western pipistrelles.

Mexican free-tailed bats are larger. They also live in colonies. Since pipistrelles tend to be solitary, they will roost in very unusual locations such as rodent burrows, under the bark of trees, and in the shutters on houses. Pipistrelles also tend to leave their roost earlier than free-taileds.

