

NIGHT GUARDIANS OF THE BAYOU



BAT THEMED SCAVENGER HUNT

Explore Buffalo Bayou Park in 5 stops – grab a map from The Water Works Visitor Center and get started on all things BATS!

1. Tapley Tributary

“The trail is shady, the night is near, bats fly fast but have no fear. They don’t use eyes the way we do – what sound-based skill helps guide them through?”

Answer: _____

Hint: Some bat calls are so high-pitched humans can’t hear them at all.

2. Nearby the Cistern

“You won’t find bats in caves tonight; they choose new shelters out of sight. Bridges, trees, and buildings too – name one place bats might hide near you.”

Answer: _____

Hint: Bats don’t build nests; they roost by hanging upside down.

3. Crosby Outfall

“Still waters shimmer, insects rise, this is where the bat supply lies. Find the plants that bugs call home – plants, flowers or grasses grown.”

Answer: _____

Hint: Insects gather near still water, making bayous a favorite dining spot!

4. Eleanor Tinsley Park

“We fly at dusk and feast on the night, eating pests to keep ecosystems right. We munch on bugs you may not like, name two insects’ bats might strike!”

Answer: _____

Hint: A single Mexican free-tailed bat can eat thousands of insects in one night!

5. Waugh Drive Bridge

“As daylight fades and stars appear, the night-shift flyers gather here. Watch the bridge as skies grow dark, what time does the bat journey embark?”

Answer: _____

Hint: This is one of the largest urban bat colonies in the U.S.

NIGHT GUARDIANS OF THE BAYOU

BAT THEMED SCAVENGER HUNT - ANSWER KEY



Explore Buffalo Bayou Park in 5 stops – grab a map from The Water Works Visitor Center and get started on all things BATS!

1. Tapley Tributary

“The trail is shady, the night is near, bats fly fast – but have no fear. They don’t use eyes the way we do – what sound-based skill helps guide them through?”

Answer: Echolocation helps bats navigate and hunt in the dark.

2. Nearby the Cistern

“You won’t find bats in caves tonight; they choose new shelters out of sight. Bridges, trees, and buildings too – name one place bats might hide near

Answer: Bridges, tree bark, old buildings, bat houses, and leaves can be roosting spots.

3. Crosby Outfall

“Still waters shimmer, insects rise, this is where the bat supply lies. Find the plants that bugs call home – plants, flowers or grasses grown.”

Answer: Wildflowers, native plants, and still water attract insects, which attract bats.

4. Eleanor Tinsley Park

“We fly at dusk and feast on the night, eating pests to keep ecosystems right. We munch on bugs you may not like, name two insects bats might strike!”

Answer: Bats eat mosquitoes, moths, beetles, and other night flying insects.

5. Waugh Drive Bridge

“As daylight fades and stars appear, the night-shift flyers gather here. Watch the bridge as skies grow dark, what time does the bat journey embark?”

Answer: Bats emerge shortly after sunset to feed.