

# BAPTIST FEATURES

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CHILDREN'S PAGE  
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## BROWN BAT By Vera May Baldwin

God has placed many interesting creatures in the world. And each one has its own special place. Sometimes, of course, we wonder what that place can be.

Take the bat, for instance.

Oh, little brown bat,  
So at ease when in flight,  
You swoop and you dive  
Through the darkness of night,  
Your radar machine  
Working so perfectly,  
That blind-folded you'd  
Still fly accurately.

Many misleading tales are told about this little animal. It is often thought of as a weird, injurious creature. But the brown bat that lives in the United States is harmless, and very useful because it feeds on insects. Its appearance, to be sure, is odd. The bat has a furry body, something like a mouse. Its hind legs are short with hooked claws, and its front legs extend out into wings which make it possible for the bat to fly like a bird.

As a rule the bat flies around only at night. During the day it sleeps in some dark place, hanging head down by its claws.

Some people believe the bat is blind. This is how we have come to use the expression, "Blind as a bat," The little bat cannot see as well in the bright sunlight as it can when darkness begins to fall. But it is not blind. It has fine eyesight.

However, if you put a blindfold over a bat's eyes it would still be able to fly extremely well. And it could fly through a maze of wires or strings without hitting any of them.

This is because God in his planning made the bat's ears more important than its eyes. It has a wonderful radar system in its ears. By listening to its own voice echo against nearby objects, the bat knows where they are and can keep clear of them. If you see a bat flying through the darkness, you may hear it making sharp, shrill sounds and will know that it is using its radar. No modern airplane has any better device for "flying blind" than does the bat.

The mother bat takes good care of her children. When the babies are very young she keeps them with her all the time. They cling to her furry body with their tiny claws. They even ride along with her when she flies around. As soon as the babies are old enough to stay alone for a while, the mother sometimes leaves them hanging in the cave, or wherever their home may be. Then she goes off by herself to exercise and catch insects. When she returns, she finds the babies hanging head downward exactly where she left them.

Don't you wish that the little bat liked to come out during the daytime? It would be such fun to get to know this furry, winged animal better! It is really one of God's interesting and splendid creatures.

"All things were made by him, and without him was not anything made that was made."  
John 1:3

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### TREE TOADS

By Gladys Cleone Carpenter

One of the most interesting of the tiny creatures that God has made is the tree toad or tree frog.

What a voice he has for his size! He has a sound sack beneath his chin that swells like a little balloon. It is with this that he makes the sound which can be heard for quite some distance.

This toad has the power of changing colors to match his surroundings; so he often looks like bark or a leaf.

His fingers and toes are comical looking. Each has a little ball on the end. These are sticky so aid the little fellow to hold to his perch.

In April these toads lay eggs in the ponds. The eggs soon hatch into tiny tadpoles. Some of these come from the water while they still have tails.

Tree toads are a wonderful help in keeping down mosquitoes and gnats. These little folks sleep beneath moss and leaves during the winter. Then they come forth the "spring peepers" who chorus that the winter-time is gone.

When God makes such marvelous changes in nature as transforming tadpoles into frogs, we shouldn't fear the changes in our lives. For He knows what is for our best. In changing us he is making us into something worthwhile. That is what is meant in the Bible where it says, "We are his workmanship" (Eph. 2:10).

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NOTE TO EDITORS: This is for the enclosed mat.

### POLAR BEARS

By Reuben S. DeLong

Here we have a polar bear. It lives up in the far North, where there is ice and snow all the year round. Nature is very kind to this type of bear, for its fur is of a snow-white color. Thus the Eskimo hunters find it hard to see and to trap the bear. While the polar bear would run from the Eskimos, it will stand still for you as you draw a path with your pencil between the lines. You must not cross any lines. Start at the arrow at the tip of the bear's nose. The end is at the arrow on the front leg that is raised up.

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### WINTER'S TREASURE

By Edith Kent Battle

A wind came out of the North last night,  
Bringing the whirling snowflakes white,  
Piling them thick on the trees, the hills,  
Deep on the house-roofs, high on the sills---  
Over a world asleep  
In the winter darkness deep.

Sunrise silvered the snow-drifts there,  
Outdoors was a wonderful dreamland fair,  
Beauty and silence---music not heard,  
But clear as the song of a springtime bird.  
Snow. . .a treasure brought from far,  
Every snowflake a wonder-star!

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