

## STUDENT CONSERVATION PROJECT

**OBJECTIVE:**

**The students will create and present a conservation project to raise the public's awareness of bats and how important they are to our world.**

**NGSS:** MS-LS2-5, MS-ESS3

**MATERIALS:**

- Conservation Project Ideas document (per student)



**TIME:** 1-2 hours

## Teacher preparation

- Copy Conservation Project Ideas for each student.

## Engage

Ask students to think back to all they have learned about bats. Have them share out some of the things they remember about bats. Then ask students if they think bats are important to any ecosystem they are in. Discuss how they are important.

## Explore

1. Tell students that the lesson today will explore ways we can protect bats.
2. Have students explore <https://www.batcon.org/our-work/> from Bats Conservation International to learn about ways scientists and others are trying to save bats on the endangered list.
3. Tell students that they may not be able to travel to Jamaica or Florida, but they can still help bats. Have students brainstorm ideas and make a class list. For ideas, watch the video: <https://youtu.be/JekUvCdF6zs> This video will remind students of some of the dangers bats face and what a few kids have done to help bats.
4. Have students recall what they learned in Engineering a Bat Garden lesson on ways they can make their yard welcoming to bats:
  - » Plant native plants and trees.
  - » If possible, don't tear down that dead tree.
  - » Keep it organic. Avoid the use of pesticides.
  - » Install a bat house or garden.

\*You can go to <https://www.batcon.org/about-bats/bat-gardens-houses/> for the list above and project it for students to see. Each suggestion has a drop down menu with more explanation.
5. Give students The Student Conservation Project List Document. Students can choose from that list, from the brainstorm list discussed in class, or come up with their own project.

## Reflection

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Have students discuss or record their answers to the following prompts:

- Three things that they have learned from this lesson.
- Two questions that they still have.
- One aspect of lesson that they enjoyed.

## ELPS

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Check with students for understanding about what they are to do in the conservation lesson is and what the complete project might be.