

STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION CARDS ANSWER KEY

Thumb Found along the top edge of the wing	Used for climbing, food handling, and defense
Calcar Cartilage in the tail that sticks out from the ankle	Helps to stiffen the wing and gives the bat more control over its tail membrane while flying
Tail Can be long or short. Some bats don't have tails at all	Aids a bat to shape its tail membrane for slowing down or turning in flight
Tail membrane (Uroptagium) Membrane in the area of skin which joins the legs and/or tail of a bat	Acts like a rudder or brakes to steer or slow the bat as it flies. Also assists in food capture for some bats
Fingers Slender, jointed parts	Gives the wing its shape and provide a large surface area for the attachment of flight muscles
Foot The lower part of the leg, on which an organism stands or walks	Allows for gripping for hanging heads down. Also can be used for grooming
Nose Leaf Fleshy triangles on top of their noses	Directs echolocation signals produced by their noses
Wing Membrane (Patagium) Tough, elastic, double skin between a bat's body, tail, arm, and fingers	Connects body parts and provides surface area for powered flight
Tragus A tiny finger-like projection of skin-covered cartilage in front of a bat's ear	Directs sounds into the ear for prey location and navigation via echolocation