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WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE A BAT?

Bats do seem to have minds. They seem to experience the world around them. But what is a bat's mind *like*, do you think?

The smaller bats 'see' using sound. They send out squeaking noises and, with their big ears, listen to the echoes bouncing back off things around them such as insects and cave walls. That's how they hunt insects in total darkness.

While we know bats can do these things, we don't know what it's like for the bat when it experiences the world in this way. What's it like, from the inside, to be a bat and 'see' using sound?

It seems that, no matter how much we know about what's going on physically inside a bat when it 'sees' using sound, we will never know what the experience itself is like – not even if we cut the bat open and prod around inside its body. Its mind will still be hidden.

In fact, we don't really know what is going on in the mind of any other animal—or any other person. Minds, it seems, are a bit of a mystery!

