How Bats Get Through the Winter



Read the passage. Then answer the questions in full sentences.

Name _____ Date _____

Bats use a lot of energy when they fly. They must eat a lot of food, such as insects. But cold weather drives the insects away. So in winter, a bat must hibernate or migrate.

When a bat hibernates, its body slows way down. Then it can live a long time with no food. Its heart beats 200 to 300 times a minute. When it hibernates, its heart beats just 10 times a minute! Its body can get very cold, close to freezing.

Bats hibernate in places like caves and mines. Some bats may hibernate for more than six months. They wait for the insects to come back in spring.

To migrate is to move to a new place. Some bats fly to warmer places with more food.

Some bats hibernate, some migrate, and some do both.

1. **What do many bats eat?**

2. **Where do bats hibernate?**

3. **Why must bats hibernate or migrate in winter?**

4. **If you were a bat, would you hibernate or migrate? Why?**

Answer key

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1. What do many bats eat?
   Insects.

2. Where do bats hibernate?
   In places like caves and mines.

3. Why must bats hibernate or migrate in winter?
   Cold weather drives the insects away, so bats would not have food.

4. If you were a bat, would you hibernate or migrate? Why?
   Sample answer: I would migrate, because I would like to fly to a warm place with lots of food.