



Article Guide: White Nose Syndrome is Killing Mammoth Cave's Bats

<http://scienceovereverything.com/2017/06/19/white-nose-syndrome-bats-mammoth-cave/>

As you read each paragraph:

- Vocabulary – Box vocabulary words or words that you have not seen before
- Focus Questions – Underline in the text where these questions are as you read

A spreading epidemic

1. What is White Nose Syndrome and how does it affect bats?

2. What happens to hibernating bats with White Nose Syndrome? Why is this killing the bats?

Serious risk of extinction

3. How many bats have died from White Nose Syndrome since 2005? How much has the Little Brown bat population declined by?

4. How have humans made the problem of White Nose syndrome worse?

Threats to the ecosystem

5. What is the most important role bats play in the ecosystem? How could that hurt other species around Mammoth Caves?

6. How else do bats help plants that outside the caves? How do they help support food chains in the caves themselves?

Discussion

Putting up a bat box is a great way for people to provide a home for bats. However, some bat species live in colonies, and wouldn't find a bat box as a useful home. What could be some ways that humans could provide a habitat for bat colonies, even as cities continue to expand?

Vocabulary Guide

Cave	
Fungi	
Pandemic	
Endangered	
Extinct	
Colony	
Biodiversity	
Population	
Hibernation	
Pollination	
Vector	
Guano	