

# WORDS IN THE NEWS

Teacher's pack



# BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH



# Words in the News

## Rabid Vampire Bats attack humans in Brazil

02 November 2005

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2005/11/051102\\_vampirebats.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2005/11/051102_vampirebats.shtml)

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Words in the News – Rabid Vampire Bats attack humans in Brazil – Intermediate Reading Skills  
Core materials Lesson Plan

	Activity	Approx time in mins	Teacher	Boardwork								
PRE – READING TEXT	Stimulate students' interest in text	5	Generate interest about today's topic by asking students what they think the most dangerous animal is and how they kill people. Write some of their ideas on the board (Expected responses: mosquito, tarantula, vampire)	<table><tr><td>animal</td><td>kills by</td></tr><tr><td>tarantula</td><td>poisoning</td></tr><tr><td>mosquito</td><td>carrying malaria</td></tr><tr><td>vampire</td><td>carrying rabies</td></tr></table>	animal	kills by	tarantula	poisoning	mosquito	carrying malaria	vampire	carrying rabies
	animal	kills by										
tarantula	poisoning											
mosquito	carrying malaria											
vampire	carrying rabies											
	Pre-teach essential vocabulary	10	Elicit/present key vocabulary that students need either to understand the key points in the text or to understand and/or answer any questions that you'll set them later in the lesson. The vocabulary is from Words in the News (so you can elicit the vocabulary by using the explanations provided online or below). You could either pre-teach the vocabulary at this stage of the lesson or you could use the vocabulary building activity from further down this lesson plan. Have students working in small groups together and ask them to try to match the vocabulary with the definitions. Encourage them to work with the other groups to pool their knowledge. When they have done as much as they can, if they have dictionaries, ask them to look up the words to check their answers and to find out the definitions of any words they were not sure of. If not, check their answers and give them help with any words they aren't sure of. Whichever method you use to elicit/present the vocabulary, you should then model it (say it clearly, highlighting the word stress) and get them to repeat the words after you. Elicit/present the vocabulary first and then write the words on the board.									



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	Activity	Approx time in mins	Teacher	Boardwork
	Pre-teach essential vocabulary	10	<p><b>a wave of something</b> an unusually large number of something</p> <p><b>vampire bats</b> mammals which give birth to babies rather than eggs and feed them on their own milk plus partly digested blood.</p> <p><b>this latest outbreak is unusually serious</b> the most recent number of attacks is higher than usual</p> <p><b>rabies</b> a deadly virus of the nervous system carried by animals; it can cause death in humans if they are bitten by a diseased animal</p> <p><b>to fill gaps in the walls of their huts</b> to close the spaces in the walls of their homes</p> <p><b>blamed the attacks on destruction of the rainforest</b> said the attacks are happening because the rainforest is being very badly damaged</p> <p><b>denying</b> not allowing</p>	<p><b>a wave of something</b></p> <p><b>vampire bats</b></p> <p><b>this latest outbreak is unusually serious</b></p> <p><b>rabies (n)</b></p> <p><b>to fill gaps in the walls of their huts</b></p> <p><b>blamed the attacks on destruction of the rainforest</b></p> <p><b>denying</b></p>



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	Activity	Approx time in mins	Teacher	Boardwork								
			<p><b>natural habitat</b> the surroundings where the bats usually live</p> <p><b>the spread of cattle farming</b> the increase in the number of large farm animals being kept for their milk and/or meat</p> <p><b>providing an ample food supply</b> supplying more food than is needed</p>	<p><b>n<u>a</u>tural <u>h</u>abitat</b></p> <p><b>the s<u>p</u>read of <u>c</u>attle <u>f</u>arming</b></p> <p><b>pro<u>v</u>iding an ample food supply</b></p>								
	Written record		Write the words on the board, eliciting spelling as you write. Elicit and show the word stress of each item and word class, if appropriate. Give students some time to copy your boardwork into their notebooks.									
	Set skimming question. Students read text the first time	5 - 10	Tell the students they are going to read a text about animal attacks in Brazil. Give them a time limit (1 - 2 minutes) to read the text quickly to find the answer to the question on the board. Were any of our animals and the ways they kill mentioned in text? (The animals are the ones the students came up with at the beginning of the lesson.)	<table><tr><td>animal</td><td>kills by</td></tr><tr><td>tarantula</td><td>poisoning</td></tr><tr><td>mosquito</td><td>carrying malaria</td></tr><tr><td>vampire</td><td>carrying rabies</td></tr></table>	animal	kills by	tarantula	poisoning	mosquito	carrying malaria	vampire	carrying rabies
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Activity	Approx time in mins	Teacher	Boardwork a
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Supplementary materials Lesson Plan

			match the words and definitions in the worksheet.	
	Check answers	3	If an answer is wrong, ask other students to try to elicit correct answer (see worksheet C and answer key).	
	Follow-up activity writing	15	Ask students how they feel about vampires. Do they know the character Dracula? If not, show them a picture of him or describe him (a man who stays alive by drinking people's blood) Tell students that they are vampires! They are going to write their diary describing a typical day and night! Students work by themselves (or pairs or small groups) and write one or two paragraphs (80 - 100 words) about their lives as vampires. Give them 2 or 3 minutes to think about their topic (where they go, who they meet, what they eat and drink etc.) and about 8 - 10 minutes to write their piece.	
	Feedback		Give praise for content (for example, who wrote the most believable vampire diary). Give praise for correct examples you read. Give feedback on incorrect examples you read. Elicit corrections	
		5	Give praise for content (who wrote the most interesting diary). Give praise for correct examples you read. Give feedback on incorrect examples you read. Elicit corrections.	Examples: I felt quite hungry and wanted something to eat. (✓) I drink blood every night but I don't feel strength. (x)
Total Time		30		



## Words in the News – Worksheet A - Comprehension

### Rabid Vampire Bats attack humans in Brazil – 2 November 2005

Are the following questions true or false? Read the text again and circle the correct answer:

1.	Vampire bats have never bitten people in Brazil before.	T/F
2.	The most recent attack isn't very serious because only a few people have been injured by the vampires.	T/F
3.	People have been trying to protect themselves from the bat attacks in their homes.	T/F
4.	Some people say the bats are attacking because the forest where the bats usually live is being destroyed.	T/F
5.	Other people say the attacks are happening because there are only a few farm animals which means that the bats are more hungry than usual.	T/F
6.	Other attacks have happened in some Latin American countries when the farm animal population has suddenly increased.	T/F

This quiz is available online. Go to:

(story link: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2005/11/051102\\_vampirebats.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2005/11/051102_vampirebats.shtml))

At the bottom of the page (Words in the News), follow the link Do a comprehension test about this story



## Words in the News –Worksheet B - Vocabulary

### Rabid Vampire Bats attack humans in Brazil – 2 November 2005

Cut up the following vocabulary items. Ask students to match them correctly with the definitions.

1.	a wave of something
2.	vampire bats
3.	this latest outbreak is unusually serious
4.	rabies
5.	to fill gaps in the walls of their huts
6.	blamed the attacks on destruction of the rainforest
7.	denying
8.	natural habitat
9.	providing an ample food supply
10.	the spread of cattle farming

## Words in the News – Worksheet B - Definitions

### Rabid Vampire Bats attack humans in Brazil – 2 November 2005

Cut up the following definitions. Ask students to match them correctly with the vocabulary items.

A.	mammals which give birth to babies rather than eggs and feed them on their own milk plus partly digested blood
B.	to close the spaces in the walls of their homes
C.	the most recent number of attacks is higher than usual
D.	the surroundings where the bats usually live
E.	said the attacks are happening because the rainforest is being very badly damaged
F.	the increase in the number of large farm animals being kept for their milk and/or meat
G.	not allowing
H.	an unusually large number of something
I.	a deadly virus of the nervous system carried by animals; it can cause death in humans if they are bitten by a diseased animal
J.	supplying more food than is needed

## Words in the News – Worksheet C

Rabid Vampire Bats attack humans in Brazil – 2 November 2005

### Homographs

Homographs are words which are spelt the same but which have different meanings. For example, book can be a noun and means something that you read or it can be a verb that means to reserve a table in a restaurant.

Here are some homographs from today's text. Use your dictionary to match each word with the correct definition. Then, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> column, tick the word that is used in today's text. The first word has been for you.

Word	Definition	Used in the text
1. Wave (noun)	L	✓
2. Wave (verb)	G	
3. Bat (noun)		
4. Bat (verb)		
5. Last (noun)		
6. Last (adjective)		
7. State (noun)		
8. State (verb)		
9. Treat (noun)		
10. Treat (verb)		
11. Trying (adjective)		
12. Trying (verb)		
13. Leaves (verb)		
14. Leaves (noun)		
15. Mass (noun)		
16. Mass (noun)		

A. Hit a ball
B. Formally say or write something
C. Attempting to do something
D. One before the recent or current one
E. Christian church service (often Catholic)
F. Something a cobbler uses to fix your shoes
G. Sign you make with your hand when you say goodbye to someone
H. Something special that you wouldn't normally get or have
I. Large amount of something
J. Help someone who is sick to get better
K. Part of a country
L. Large number things moving suddenly (for example across a country)
M. Annoying or difficult to deal with
N. Parts of a tree, usually green but which often change to brown or red in Autumn.
O. Mammal which flies at night
P. Goes away, departs

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#### Answers

#### Worksheet A

1. False - Paragraph 1 says 'It's not the first time there's been a wave of attacks by vampire bats in the Amazon.'
2. False - Paragraph 1 says 'this latest outbreak is unusually serious. Sixteen people died of rabies last month.'
3. True – Paragraph 2 says 'people have been trying to fill gaps in the walls of their huts with banana leaves to stop the bats getting in.'
4. True – Paragraph 3 says 'Some experts have blamed the attacks on destruction of the rainforest, denying the bats of their natural habitat.'
5. False – Paragraph 3 says 'But others have suggested the vampire bat population may have grown rapidly with the spread of cattle farming in the region providing an ample food supply.'
6. False – Paragraph 3 says 'Mass attacks on humans have occurred in other cattle regions in Latin America when the cattle are suddenly removed, denying the bats their normal food.'

#### Worksheet B

1.	H
2.	A
3.	C
4.	I
5.	B
6.	E
7.	G
8.	D
9.	J
10.	F

#### Worksheet C

Word	Definition	Used in the text
1. Wave (noun)	L	✓
2. Wave (verb)	G	
3. Bat (noun)	O	✓
4. Bat (verb)	A	
5. Last (noun)	F	
6. Last (adjective)	D	✓
7. State (noun)	K	✓
8. State (verb)	B	
9. Treat (noun)	H	
10. Treat (verb)	J	✓
11. Trying (adjective)	M	
12. Trying (verb)	C	✓
13. Leaves (verb)	P	
14. Leaves (noun)	N	✓
15. Mass (noun)	E	
16. Mass (noun)	I	✓