The Flying Fox

By Guy Belleranti

Do foxes fly? No, but a bat called the flying fox does! This bat gets its name from its pointy, foxlike face.

Flying foxes are the world’s largest bats. With their wings open, some are 5 feet wide. That’s as long as 5 rulers laid end to end!

Flying foxes live in parts of Asia, Africa, and Australia. They gather in groups called colonies. Some colonies have thousands of members.

During the day, these bats rest hanging upside down in the trees. This is called roosting.

At night, it’s time to eat. They search for flower nectar and fruit. Their big eyes and great sense of smell help them do this.

Flying foxes fly from plant to plant as they eat. This helps the forest. The bat’s fur picks up a dust called pollen from flowers. It carries the pollen to other flowers, pollinating them. This helps plants make seeds. The bats also spread fruit seeds through the forest as they eat and fly. The seeds grow into new plants.
1. How did flying foxes get their name?
   a. They are orange and red like foxes.
   b. They have bushy tails like foxes.
   c. Their faces look like fox faces.

2. Fill in the Venn diagram using the following facts.

3. Where don’t flying foxes live?
   a. Africa
   b. the Americas
   c. Asia
   d. Australia

4. What are two things that help flying foxes find food?

   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
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Fill in the missing letters to create a vocabulary word from the article. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. e m e r
   clue: one of the people or things in a group

2. o l o n
   clue: a dust-like thing that helps plants make seeds

3. r s t n g
   clue: when flying animals rest or sleep

4. r i
   clue: part of a plant with seeds; many animals eat it

5. p r e d
   clue: to move around over a wide space

6. g h e
   clue: to come together in a group

7. o n e s
   clue: groups of many bats

8. e t r
   clue: a sweet liquid plants make

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In the article, “The Flying Fox,” you learned that flying foxes eat fruit and nectar.

Flying foxes and plants help each other. Other than being food, what are two ways plants help flying foxes? What are two ways flying foxes help plants? Use information in the article and what you already know about plants and animals.

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1. How did flying foxes get their name?
   a. They are orange and red like foxes.
   b. They have bushy tails like foxes.
   c. Their faces look like fox faces.
   d. They pollinate flowers like foxes.

2. Fill in the Venn diagram using the following facts.
   - Flying Foxes
   - Foxes
   - Both

3. Where don't flying foxes live?
   a. Africa
   b. the Americas
   c. Asia
   d. Australia

4. What are two things that help flying foxes find food?
   - Two things that help flying foxes find food are their big eyes and great sense of smell.
The Flying Fox

clue: groups of many bats

8. ________ nectar

clue: a sweet liquid plants make