

## Fun Facts About Bats and Sloths!

### Two-toed sloths, like the one in my books:



- actually have three toes (or claws) on each of their back limbs, but only two on their front limbs
- evolved from the extinct Giant Ground Sloth, or Megatherium, which could be more than 12 feet tall, and died out more than 10,000 years ago
- do almost everything upside down--mating, sleeping, even giving birth
- move very slowly, but swim surprisingly fast--and can hold their breath underwater for up to 40 minutes
- poop only about once a week, and such a large amount that they lose up to a third of their body weight

### Fruit bats that live in the rainforest:



- are the only mammals that truly fly
- can smell ripe fruit as far away as a couple of miles
- have owls, snakes, and birds of prey as enemies
- play an important role in dispersing the seeds of fruits
- are NOT blind, though their eyes are small. Echolocation helps them "see" better: They make high-frequency sounds which bounce off objects to indicate where and how far away things are.