

ADVENTURE OF ECHO THE BAT PUPPET SHOW

ACT ONE: THE STORY OF ECHO

SCENE 1: A BAT IS BORN

STAGE:

BACKGROUND: Dark Blue with MOON

PROPS: Pine Tree trunk

CHARACTERS: Echo, Snake

OPEN CURTAIN

NARRATOR: “High in the mountains of Arizona, there is a forest of tall Ponderosa pine trees. A colony of mother Big Brown bats makes its home under the loose bark of a pine tree to raise its babies. When the warm days of spring lead to summer, a baby bat is born. Mother Bat calls to her baby and her baby calls back, like echoes in the canyon. She names her baby Echo.

ENTER ECHO – FALLS FROM THE TOP STAGE

ECHO: *(loudly...ending with thump sound)* “Ahhhhhhhh”
(speaks to self as brushing off his wings) “Those storks, always dropping their packages.”

“Oh! Hello. I am Echo the Bat. Have you ever seen a bat? *(pause)* Oh, well I am sorry, because we are incredible animals. Are you scared of bats? *(pause)* WHAT! Scared of a little fuzzy mouse with wings like me! *(Whispers)* I have a secret to tell you. I am scared of big people like you!

Actually, there are lots of creatures I am scared of: lions and tigers and bears. Opps, I mean snakes and birds and cats.

SNAKE ENTERS STAGE behind Echo.

ECHO: “You don't see any cats or birds or snakes do you ?” *(pause for audience response)*

“What?” *(pause)* “Where” *(pause)*
(Echo sees snake) “Ahhhhhh...a snake...!”

ECHO JUMPS OFF STAGE. SNAKE TURNS TO AUDIENCE CONFUSED.

CLOSE CURTAIN

SCENE TWO: MOM GOES BUG CATCHING

STAGE: No change

CHARACTERS: Echo

OPEN CURTAIN

ECHO: “Is he gone? (pause) Whew!”

MOTHER BAT: (from off stage) “Echo, I am going to find bugs to eat, you must wait here. I will be home soon.”

ECHO: “But why can’t I go? I want to learn to fly. When can I learn?” pleads Echo.

MOTHER BAT: “You will be ready soon. But now you must wait here and be careful not to fall, there are many animals in the forest that would like to eat bats for dinner.”

ECHO: “I never get to go anywhere. I don’t want to stay here. It is scary.”

ECHO LOOKS AROUND CONFUSED AS NARRATOR TALKS

NARRATOR: With that warning, Mother Bat flies from the tree to hunt for bugs. Echo watches his mother fly toward the setting sun and wishes he could fly with her. Instead, he and the other baby bats hold tightly to the inside of the tree bark they call home. They huddle together to stay warm. Frightened by the thoughts of owls and snakes, the babies begin calling for their mothers.

ECHO: (*cries for mom – human baby crying*)

NARRATOR: “Hey, that is not the sound a baby bat makes”

ECHO: “Oh, ok...your no fun.” (*Echo makes bat chirp like sounds*)

NARRATOR: “Mother Bat hears Echo calling to her.”

ECHO: “There she is!”

MOTHER BAT AND ECHO CUDDLE – DO WE HAVE MOM BAT PUPPET?

NARRATOR: “Mother Bat knows Echo’s call well and can find him even if there are hundreds of baby bats in the nursery colony. Echo is glad his mother is home, but still wishes he could fly.”

CLOSE CURTAIN

SCENE THREE: ECHO LEARNS TO FLY

STAGE:

BACKGROUND: no change

PROPS: Bugs on wires

CHARACTERS: Echo and mother bat

OPEN CURTAIN

NARRATOR: Now Echo is a month old and has grown almost as big as his mother. The time has come for him to learn how to fly. He is very excited and lets go of the tree and begins to flap his wings.

ECHO FLOPS ALL OVER THE STAGE:

ECHO: “Ahhhhhh” (thump) ... “Ahhhhhhh” (thump)

ECHO SLOWLY STARTS TO FLY

ECHO: “Look at me!” “Look at me, Mother, I’m flying!”

NARRATOR: “Echo and his mother fly around the pine trees. It takes a lot of energy for a bat to fly. Bats don’t have feathers and cannot glide like birds. They have to flap their wings very fast the whole time they are flying. Echo soon becomes tired and hungry.”

MOTHER BAT: “Follow me!” “We will find some bugs to eat.”

ECHO FLIES OFF STAGE. ENTER BUGS.

ECHO FLIES ONTO STAGE TRYING TO CATCH BUGS. HE MISSES.

ECHO: Ugh, I can see everything with my eyes, but it is hard for me to catch these bugs. They are so small and fast!”

MOTHER BAT: “Echo, use the force Echo”. “We can see very well, yes. But we have another way to remotely sense these tiny bugs. You can make chirping sound.”

ECHO: “Like this? “Chirp! Chirp!”

MOTHER BAT: “No Echo, it is a very high sound – and ultrasonic sound - that people can’t hear.

ECHO: “Oh, like this?” (*motion puppet as if chirping but make no sound*)

MOTHER BAT: “Yes”

ECHO FLIES AND STILL CAN'T GET THE BUGS

ECHO: “How does that help...I still can't catch any bugs”

MOTHER BAT: “This sound bounces off bugs, like an echo, and we listen with our big ears for the sound to return. The direction the sound comes from will tell you when it is. And if the sound returns quickly, the bug is very close.”

ECHO: “It works, It works”

ECHO AND MOTHER BAT CHASE BUGS

MOTHER BAT: “Soon the weather will get colder and there will not be enough bugs for us to eat. We will take a long trip and fly to a new home for the winter. This is what it means to migrate.”

ECHO: “How do we find our way?”

MOTHER BAT: “As we fly, we will see shapes on the land made by rivers, lakes, and mountains. The patterns these shapes make will help guide us to our new home, a cave.

ECHO: “What will we do there?”

MOTHER BAT: “At this cave, we will meet other bats. We will sleep in this cave all winter.”

ECHO: “All winter! I don't think I am that tired. I want to stay late.”

MOTHER BAT: “Well dear, this is what us bats do. We hibernate until spring. Like bears do.”

ECHO: “Ok, it does sound like a big party. I can't wait”

CURTAIN CLOSES

SCENE FOUR: THE GREAT FIRE

STAGE:

BACKGROUND: *BLACK with CLOUDS*

PROPS: *PINE TREE, FIRE, BRANCH, Lightning bolt*

CHARACTERS: *ECHO*

NARRATOR: “The next night, Echo and his mother leave their roost to hunt for bugs. Just then, dark clouds filled the sky.”

ASK AUDIENCE TO MAKE A LOUD THUNDER SOUND "BOOM BOOM"

ECHO: “Ouch! My ears!”

*ASK AUDIENCE TO MAKE A LOUD THUNDER SOUND "BOOM BOOM"
CRASH! A LIGHTNING BOLT STRIKES A NEARBY TREE AND STARTS A
FIRE. ECHO GRASPS A TREE BRANCH AND WATCHES THE FLAMES.*

ECHO: “Mother!” “Where are you?” I cannot see or hear her anywhere.”

*ECHO FLIES AROUND SCARED. BRANCH APPEARS. ECHO FLOPS ONTO
BRANCH.*

NARRATOR: “Lost and alone, Echo clings to the pine branch. He wonders if he will ever see his mother again.”

ECHO: *(crying)* “Will I ever see her again? Maybe she is going to the cave. But how will I get there? How can I do it alone?”

ECHO: *(confident)* She told me that we follow the shapes of rivers, farms, and mountains. She told me all the places I can find food along the way. I can get to the cave. I will get to the cave. I will go tomorrow.”

CURTAIN CLOSES

ACT II: THE GREAT ADVENTURE

SCENE ONE: THE CITY

STAGE:

BACKGROUND: *SATELLITE IMAGE OF PHOENIX*

PROPS: *BUILDING or STREET LIGHT, BUGS, BAT BOX*

CHARACTERS: *ECHO*

CURTAIN OPENS

NARRATOR: The next night Echo begins his journey to find the cave. He flies higher and higher above the trees and over a mountain. Looking down, Echo sees many shapes on the ground.

ECHO: “I can see a squiggly line. The closer I get, it looks like a river.” “Maybe this river will lead me to the cave. Look at all these streets! This must be a city. Hmmm, My tummy is rumbling. Where do YOU think I can find bugs in the city?”

PAUSE FOR AUDIENCE

ECHO: “Where there is a city, there are streets and streetlights, and where there are streetlights, there are bugs!

ECHO FLIES AROUND THE STREET LIGHTS CATCHING BUGS

ECHO: “I am getting very tired from all this bug catching. I wonder where I could sleep the day and be safe?”

ECHO NOTICES THE BAT BOX

ECHO: “What is this? It looks like I can climb in it. Hmmm, it feel just like my home under the pine tree bark. I will sleep here for the day.”

CURTAIN CLOSES

SCENE TWO: THE GRAND CANYON

STAGE:

BACKGROUND: SATELLITE IMAGE OF GRAND CANYON

PROPS: CANYON CLIFFS

CHARACTERS: ECHO

CURTAIN OPENS

NARRATOR: The next night Echo sets out to find the cave again. Looking down, Echo sees a familiar shape on the ground.

ECHO: “Look, it’s another squiggly line. What could that be?”

PAUSE FOR AUDIENCE

ECHO: “A river led me to a city once. I wonder where this river will take me? Wow! This river is in a great canyon! Have any of you been to the Grand Canyon?”

PAUSE FOR AUDIENCE

ECHO: “I’m feeling hungry again. Are any of you hungry? (pause for audience) My mom told me I could find lots of bugs around small ponds next to the river.”

ENTER BUGS. ECHO FLYS AROUND EATING THE BUGS.

NARRATOR: Echo eats until he is stuffed with yummy bugs. He finds a small crevice in the cliff rocks and slowly drifts off to sleep hoping that no snakes will find him here.

ECHO IS SLEEPING. THE SNAKE MOVES THROUGH, LOOKS AT AUDIENCE.

CURTAIN CLOSES

SCENE TWO: THE GRAND CANYON

STAGE:

BACKGROUND: SATELLITE IMAGE OF ROOSEVELT LAKE

PROPS: PINE TREE, BLACK SQUARE

CHARACTERS: ECHO

CURTAIN OPENS

NARRATOR: The next night Echo sets out to find the cave again. He flies higher and higher following another river.

ECHO: “Maybe this river will lead me to a cave? Wow, that (pointing to Lake in satellite image) looks like it has water just like the river, but there is so much more. Does anyone know what it is?”

PAUSE FOR AUDIENCE

ECHO: “It’s a lake! And there are lots of bugs around a lake.”

ENTER BUGS. ECHO FLYS AROUND EATING BUGS.

ECHO: “Yummmmm! This place is just like home. There are plenty of bugs to eat and this tree reminds me of the one I used to live in. I could stay here forever.

I need to find my mother,” Echo cries. “I must set out to find the cave again. She told me the cave was near the desert. Tomorrow, I will head for the desert.”

CURTAIN CLOSES

SCENE FOUR: THE SONORAN DESERT

STAGE:

BACKGROUND: SATELLITE IMAGE OF SONORAN DESERT

PROPS: CACTUS, BLACK SQUARE

CHARACTERS: ECHO

CURTAIN OPENS

NARRATOR: "The next night Echo sets out to find the cave again. Echo sees the smooth sands and bumpy rocks of the desert and knows he is getting closer to the cave."

ECHO: "Gee, I am getting really hungry and really thirsty but don't see water anywhere."

QUE AUDIENCE - LOUD SHRIEK

ECHO: "Ahhhhhhh!" I need to hide somewhere. How about this hole in this here funny prickly tree. It is a SAGUARO cactus."

QUE AUDIENCE - SHRIEK CONTINUES

ECHO: "I am so scared. I don't want to go out there. I will just stay here for the night"

NARRATOR: "The next night, Echo flies as fast as he can out of the cactus, over the smooth sands and past the bumpy rocks. Flying higher and higher, he sees squares along a river.

ECHO: "These squares look different. Wow. They are farms. I remember mother telling me about all the bugs that fly around farms and how I can help the farmers by eating the bugs.

ENTER BUGS. ECHO FLIES AROUND EATING BUGS

SCENE FIVE: THE CAVE

STAGE:

BACKGROUND: SATELLITE IMAGE OF TUCSON

PROPS: CAVE, BLACK SQUARE

CHARACTERS: ECHO, SMALL BAT ON A STICK, BLACK SQUARE

CURTAIN OPENS

NARRATOR: “With his tummy full of beetles, Echo sets out to find the cave again. He flies higher and higher and soon he sees city squares.”

ECHO: “Wait, are there caves in the city?”

PAUSE FOR AUDIENCE

ECHO: “No, but look over here. Maybe these wrinkles are mountains. And mountains are good places for caves.”

ECHO FLIES TO ROCKS

ECHO: “Well, here are some caves. I wonder if there are any bats around?”

SMALL BAT FLIES THROUGH SCENE

ECHO: “I don’t see any bats. This must not be the cave. Do you see any bats?” (pause for audience) “Where did he go? Do YOU think this is the cave?”

ECHO FLIES TO THE EDGE OF THE CLIFFS. ENTER MOTHER BAT

ECHO: “Mom! It’s you!”

ECHO AND MOM HUGG

ECHO: (whisper) “Goodnight Mother”

MOTHER BAT: (whisper) “Goodnight Echo”

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