READING
An article



The man who taught himself to see



We sometimes say that a person who cannot see is 'as blind as a bat', but bats actually have an amazing ability to 'see' the world. The inspiring Daniel Kish lost his sight when he was a baby, but he learned to use sound to become more independent.

When he was growing up, his friends all rode bikes to school. Daniel wanted to be active like his friends, so he decided to teach himself to cycle by riding next to a wall. Soon he was cycling to school.

One day, a clever friend was watching Daniel on his bike when he realised something incredible: Daniel was using his ears to 'see' objects around him. As Daniel cycled, he was making clicking sounds with his tongue. Bats make similar sounds, and the sound waves travel through the air until they hit something. The bats then listen to the sound waves as they bounce off the object and return to them with information. Using this technique, called echolocation, Daniel knows the size, position and shape of an object so he can 'see' it in his head.

Daniel believes anyone can train their brain to learn echolocation. While he was studying at university, he planned an echolocation training programme. Now, he travels around the world giving talks and teaching the technique to other blind people. He inspires them to use echolocation so they can enjoy activities such as mountain biking, climbing, camping and cooking, just like he does.



Voice it!

5 Discuss the questions.

1 Do you think Daniel Kish is inspiring? Why / Why not?

2 Do you know any inspiring people? Why are they inspiring?

LIVEWORKSHEETS