

Curious Quest Kits

LET'S LEARN ABOUT THE

Migration of Wildlife



What is Wildlife Migration?

Wildlife migration is when animals travel long distances at certain times of the year. They move to find food, warmer weather, or places to have babies. It's like a big journey for them, sometimes thousands of miles!

Why do Animals Migrate?

Animals migrate for various reasons, but the main ones are to find food, suitable breeding grounds, and better living conditions. For example, some birds migrate to warmer areas in the winter where food is more plentiful, while others migrate to cooler regions in the summer to breed.

Mammals may migrate to follow seasonal changes in vegetation and to find safer places to have their babies. Fish migrate to spawn in specific areas where their offspring have a better chance of survival. Ultimately, migration helps animals survive by allowing them to adapt to changing environmental conditions throughout the year.

When do Animals Migrate?

Animals migrate at different times of the year, depending on factors like weather, food availability, and breeding seasons. For example, some birds migrate during the spring and fall when temperatures change and food becomes scarce in their breeding or wintering grounds.

Mammals may migrate during the spring to find better grazing areas or during the fall to escape colder temperatures. Fish often migrate during specific times of the year to spawn or find suitable breeding grounds. Each species has its own migration schedule, but many migrations occur during the spring and fall seasons.

Where do Animals Migrate to?

Animals migrate to different places depending on their needs. Some migrate to warmer areas to escape cold weather, while others move to find food or suitable breeding grounds. For example, birds may migrate from northern regions to warmer climates in the south during the winter, where they can find abundant food and milder temperatures.

Mammals might migrate to higher elevations in the summer to escape heat or to lower elevations in the winter to find food and shelter. Fish often migrate from oceans to rivers or streams to spawn. Ultimately, animals migrate to locations that provide the resources they need to survive and reproduce.

Migratory Animals and their Migration Patterns



Birds

Arctic Tern: Flies from the Arctic to the Antarctic and back, covering the longest migration distance of any bird.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Migrates from North America to Central America for the winter.

Sandhill Crane: Migrates from breeding grounds in North America to wintering grounds in the southern United States and Mexico.

Bar-tailed Godwit: Undertakes one of the longest non-stop flights of any bird, flying from Alaska to New Zealand.



Fish

Atlantic Salmon: Migrates from the ocean to freshwater rivers and streams to spawn.

Pacific Salmon: Migrates from the ocean to freshwater rivers and streams to spawn, with different species exhibiting various migration patterns.

Eel: Migrates from freshwater rivers to the ocean to spawn in the Sargasso Sea.

Shad: Undertakes long migrations in freshwater rivers along the East Coast of North America to spawn.



Insects

Monarch Butterfly: Migrates from North America to overwintering sites in Mexico and California, spanning multiple generations.

Dragonflies: Some species migrate long distances, while others exhibit local migrations in search of suitable breeding habitats.

Painted Lady Butterfly: Engages in long-distance migrations across continents, with populations in North America, Europe, and Asia.

Green Darner Dragonfly: Undertakes long-distance migrations, with individuals traveling hundreds or thousands of miles.



Mammals

Caribou/Reindeer: Undertake seasonal migrations in the Arctic, moving from wintering grounds to summer grazing areas.

Wildebeest: Migrate in large herds across the Serengeti ecosystem in Africa in search of fresh grazing.

Gray Whale: Migrates along the Pacific coast of North America between feeding grounds in the Arctic and breeding/calving grounds in Baja California, Mexico.

African Elephant: Seasonal migrations occur in search of water and food across the African savannah.



Marine Animals

Humpback Whale: Migrates between polar feeding grounds and tropical breeding/calving grounds.

Leatherback Sea Turtle: Migrates long distances between feeding and nesting grounds in different ocean regions.

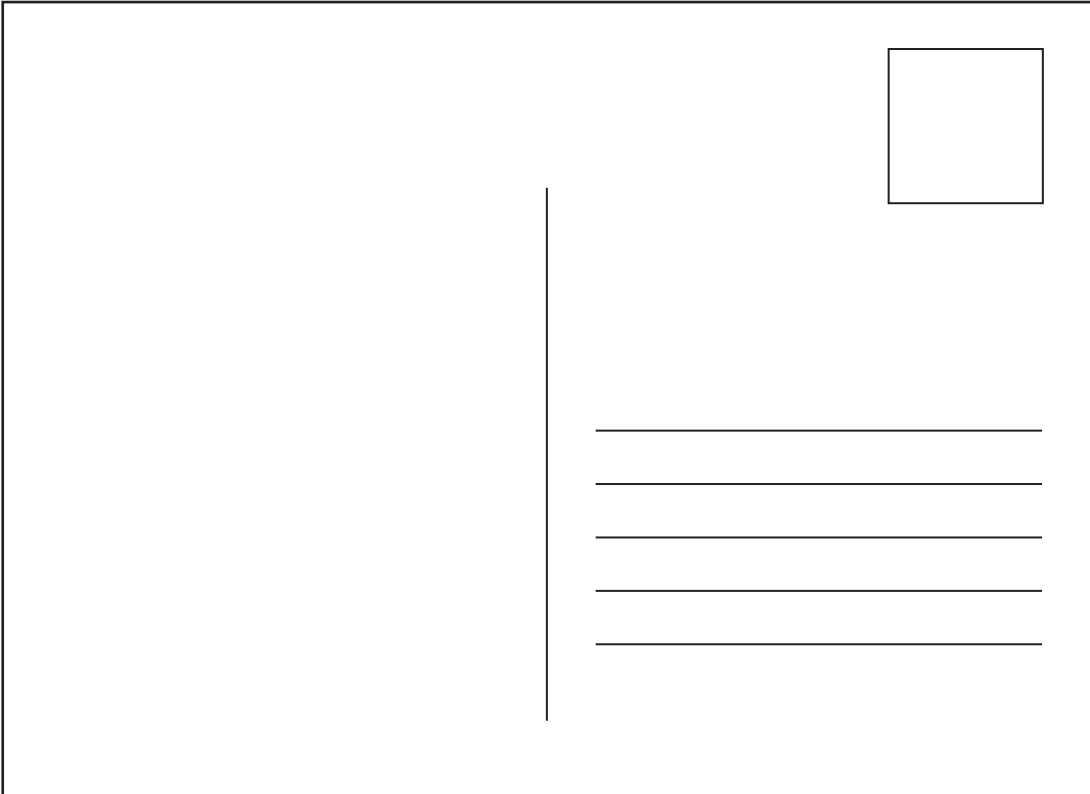
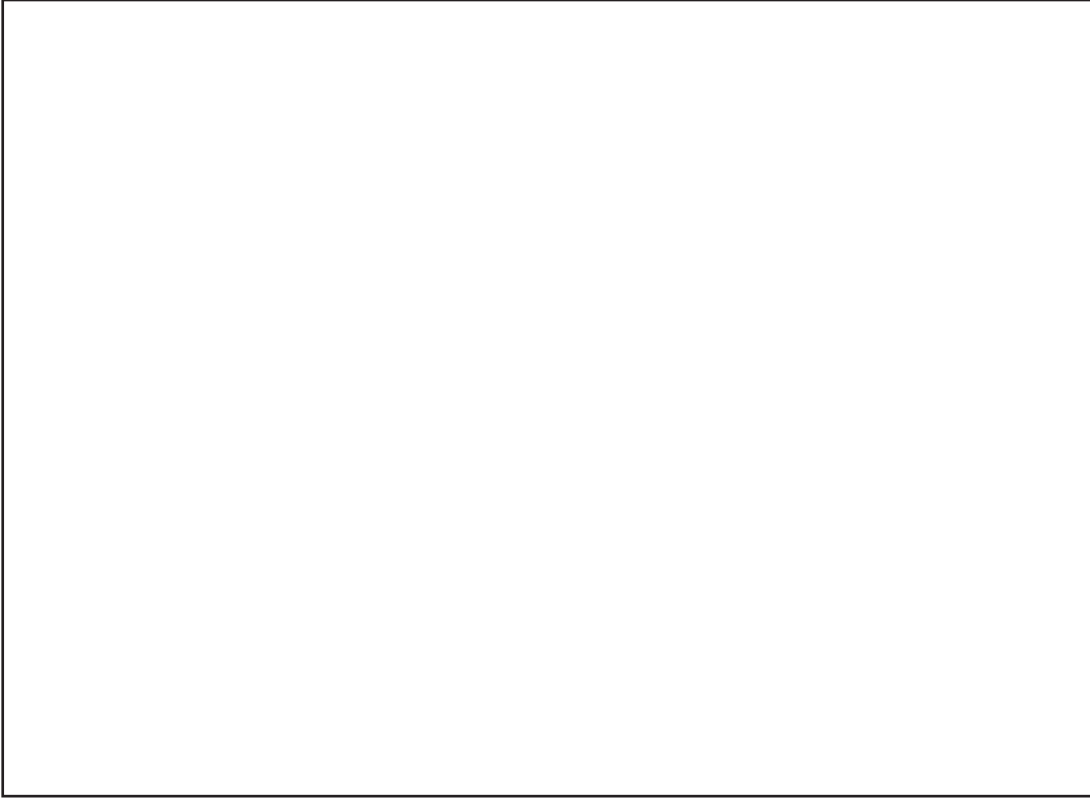
Bluefin Tuna: Undertakes transoceanic migrations between spawning and feeding areas in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

Green Sea Turtle: Migrates between feeding grounds and nesting beaches in tropical and subtropical regions.

Migration Creative Writing

Imagine you are a migrating bird embarking on a long journey. Your task is to write a postcard to a nonmigrating bird friend, sharing your experiences and adventures along the way.

Decorate the front



Migration

Word Search

J T U A D A P T A T I O N W M
F T W W C P M M N I E K Y I I
G Z W E O V E L I B C M D N G
Z Z Z N Q H K Q A X O C U T R
F L O C K I N G A V T L W E A
E A O U U V J L M J L W J R T
Y L I F L S S L Y H L A V R I
S U J O U R N E Y W Z W V U O
U O E Y A G B R E E D I N G N
M A U I W G C S I W H D K U X
M A Z K G N M Y H J A J J X K
E N F O R I E N T A T I O N R
R O O E L A T S K C K A K G O
L I S A H H A B I T A T R V I
X Q E N V I R O N M E N T V Z

Migration

Journey

Habitat

Orientation

Flocking

Environment

Breeding

Winter

Summer

Adaptation

Migration Observation Log

Animal Name: _____

Scientific Name: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

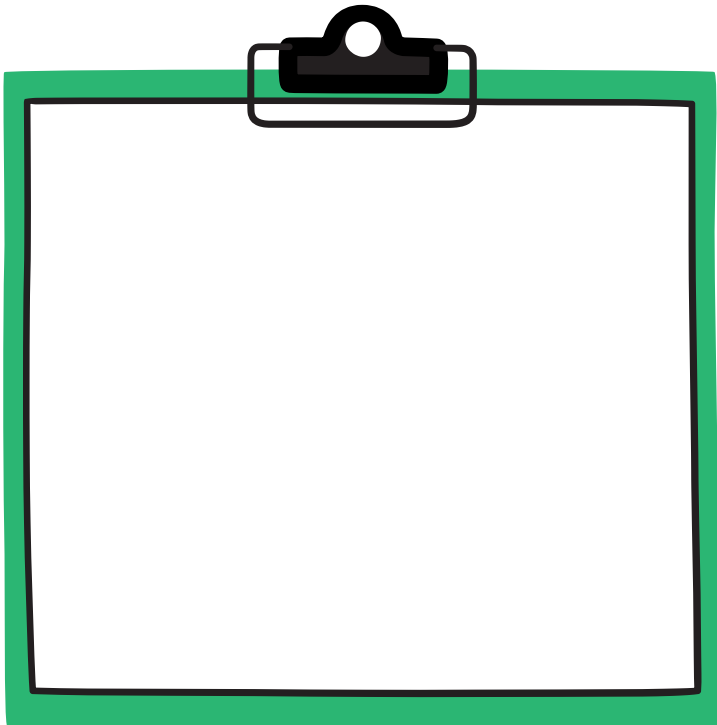
Migration Profile No: _____

Location: _____

Weather:



Season: _____



Draw a Picture

Description of Species: [Provide a brief description of each species observed, including size, coloration, markings, and any distinguishing features]

Behaviors Observed: [Note any interesting behaviors observed, such as feeding, resting, social interactions, mating displays, etc.]

Additional Notes: [Include any additional observations or information about the habitat, time of day, or other relevant details]

Reflection:

MIGRATION MATCHING

Pair the life form with their matching migrating patterns.

ARCTIC TERN



MONARCH BUTTERFLY

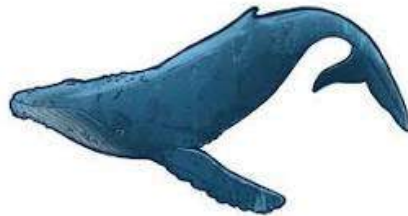


PACIFIC SALMON

WILDEBEEST



HUMPBACK WHALE



CARIBOU



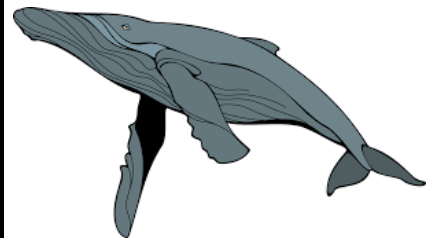
LEATHERBACK SEA TURTLE



SANDHILL CRANE



GRAY WHALE



RUBY THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

COMMON SWIFT



MOURNING DOVE



MIGRATION MATCHING

Pair these descriptions with their matching animal.

<p>Long-distance migration between feeding grounds in the Arctic and wintering grounds in warmer waters off the coast of Mexico, covering thousands of kilometers each way.</p>	<p>Long-distance migration from breeding grounds in North America to wintering grounds in Central America and Mexico, spanning thousands of kilometers.</p>	<p>Upstream migration from the ocean to freshwater rivers and streams for spawning, with some species traveling hundreds of kilometers against strong currents.</p>
<p>Long-distance migration between polar feeding grounds and tropical breeding areas, with migrations spanning thousands of kilometers.</p>	<p>Long-distance migration from breeding grounds in the Arctic to wintering grounds in Antarctica, covering up to 71,000 kilometers round trip.</p>	<p>Migrates between nesting beaches and foraging grounds in the ocean, traveling thousands of kilometers across oceans.</p>
<p>In winter migrants from the north concentrate in three areas close to the Gulf of Mexico; southeastern Georgia and northern Florida, southern Louisiana, and northeastern Texas.</p>	<p>Long-distance migration from breeding grounds in North America to wintering grounds in the southern United States, Mexico, and even as far south as Central America.</p>	<p>Seasonal migration across the African savannah in search of fresh grazing lands and water sources, covering hundreds of kilometers in a circular route.</p>
<p>Multi-generational migration from breeding grounds in North America to overwintering sites in central Mexico, spanning thousands of kilometers.</p>	<p>Long-distance migration across the Arctic tundra, traveling thousands of kilometers between summer and winter ranges to find food and avoid harsh weather conditions.</p>	<p>Long-distance migration from breeding grounds in Europe and Asia to wintering grounds in sub-Saharan Africa, traveling thousands of kilometers each way.</p>

MIGRATION FACT SHEET

Arctic Tern: Long-distance migration from breeding grounds in the Arctic to wintering grounds in Antarctica, covering up to 71,000 kilometers round trip.

Monarch Butterfly: Multi-generational migration from breeding grounds in North America to overwintering sites in central Mexico, spanning thousands of kilometers.

Pacific Salmon: Upstream migration from the ocean to rivers and streams for spawning, with some species traveling hundreds of kilometers against strong currents.

Wildebeest: Seasonal migration across the African savannah in search of fresh grazing lands and water sources, covering hundreds of kilometers in a circular route.

Humpback Whale: Long-distance migration between polar feeding grounds and tropical breeding areas, with migrations spanning thousands of kilometers.

Caribou (Reindeer): Long-distance migration across the Arctic tundra, traveling thousands of kilometers between summer and winter ranges to find food and avoid harsh weather conditions.

Leatherback Sea Turtle: Migrates between nesting beaches and foraging grounds in the ocean, traveling thousands of kilometers across oceans.

Sandhill Crane: Long-distance migration from breeding grounds in North America to wintering grounds in the United States, Mexico, and even Central America.

Gray Whale: Long-distance migration between feeding grounds in the Arctic and wintering grounds in warmer waters off the coast of Mexico, covering thousands of kilometers each way.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Long-distance migration from breeding grounds in North America to wintering grounds in Central America and Mexico, spanning thousands of kilometers.

Mourning Dove: In winter, migrates from the north concentrate in three areas close to the Gulf of Mexico; southeastern Georgia and northern Florida, southern Louisiana, and northeastern Texas.

Common Swift: Long-distance migration from breeding grounds in Europe and Asia to wintering grounds in sub-Saharan Africa, traveling thousands of kilometers each way.

MIGRATION MATCHING

Materials Needed:

Printouts of animal cards (one set with animal names, one set with migration patterns)
Large poster board or display area
Glue or tape

Instructions:

Print out two sets of cards: one set with the names of migrating animals and another with their corresponding migration patterns.

Set Up the Game Area:

Lay out the animal cards with names in one row or column and the migration pattern cards in another row or column on a large poster board or display area.
Leave enough space between the cards for matching pairs to be placed side by side.

Introduce the Game:

Gather the kids and introduce the matching game. Explain that they will match migrating animals with their corresponding patterns to learn more about wildlife migration.

Demonstrate How to Play:

Demonstrate how to play the game by selecting an animal card and reading its name. Then, choose a migration pattern card and read it aloud.
Encourage the kids to think critically and match the animal card with the correct migration pattern card based on their knowledge or guesses.

Let the Kids Play:

Divide the kids into groups or pairs and allow them to take turns playing the matching game. Encourage teamwork and collaboration as they discuss and decide on matching pairs. Provide assistance and guidance to ensure all kids are engaged and learning.

Reinforce Learning:

After each match is made, reinforce learning by discussing the migration pattern of the matched animal. Encourage the kids to ask questions and share their thoughts about wildlife migration.

Extension Activities:

To extend the activity, encourage the kids to create animal cards and migration pattern cards for additional species they're interested in learning about. Encourage creative expression by having the kids draw illustrations or write short descriptions of each animal's migration journey.