

# ANIMAL MIGRATIONS

## MIGRATION

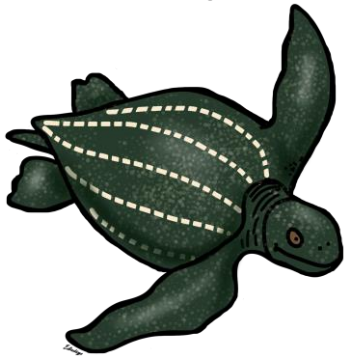
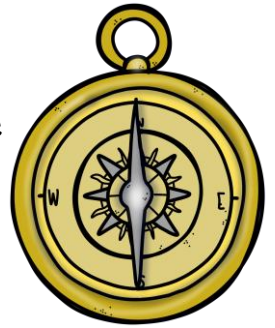
A migration is a long journey made by a group of animals in nature. These occur around the same time each year. Animals who migrate typically remain in their new homes for several weeks, or even months, then return to their previous home. There are many different types of animals who migrate.

## REASON

Animals migrate for different reasons, such as finding more food, to find water, find a warmer winter climate, or because it is better for baby animals. Many animals migrate to survive and find what they need to live and to reproduce.

## DIRECTION

Animals do not have GPS or maps, so they must find their way naturally. Some animals use the sun, moon, and stars to guide them. Other animals follow rivers, mountains, and other landmarks. Whales use the ocean floor like a map. Some animals use the Earth's magnetic poles as a guide, with their brains acting like a compass to lead them.



## LEATHERBACK TURTLES

Turtles who live in the ocean, like the leatherback, migrate. They must lay their eggs on land, which are usually sandy beaches. Once the eggs hatch, the turtles spend their entire lives in the oceans. Males do not return to land, but females do when it is time to lay their eggs. They return to the sea after they have laid their eggs.

## CANADIAN GEESE

Canadian geese fly south for the winter each year to avoid the frozen lakes and ponds. In the summer, they return north for the summer to breed and nest. Geese are known for their "V" formation when they fly. This allows them to save energy and fly around 600 miles in a single day.



## BUTTERFLIES

Monarch butterflies spend their summer in Canada and the United States and then migrate to Mexico each fall. When they return north each spring, they lay eggs to produce more butterflies.

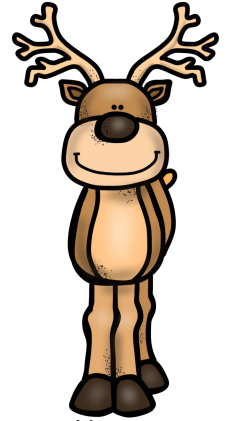
## WHALES

Many whales spend their summer in the Arctic Circle where the water is cold. They find most of their food here. During fall, whales migrate south to find warmer water. Some whales swim up to 6,000 miles and may swim for two to three months. Baby whales are born in the south because they would die in the freezing waters in the Arctic. Adult whales can go many months without eating until they migrate back to northern feeding grounds.



## CARIBOU

Caribou live in the snowy tundra of the far north. They migrate each spring to the northern coast to give birth to their calves in the summer in North America. They migrate back south below the Arctic Circle at the start of fall. Some caribou herds travel as much as 35 miles a day and can migrate up to 3,500 miles.



## WILDEBEEST AND ZEBRAS

In the African savanna, zebra and wildebeest herds migrate in a giant clockwise circle each year. They are constantly moving following the rainy seasons when food is abundant in particular areas.



## HUMMINGBIRDS

Ruby-throated hummingbirds are one of the smallest birds in North America at 3.5 inches in length and 2-6 grams in weight.

They live in the eastern and central United States and parts of Canada the majority of the year, but begin to migrate across the Gulf of Mexico as winter approaches. They eat double their body fat in preparation for their journey so they can fly without stopping to eat. They fly very fast, at up to 25 miles per hour and can fly forward, backward, up and down. It takes hummingbirds around 18 to 24 hours to cross the Gulf of Mexico and fly non-stop during their migration.

## ARCTIC TERN

The Arctic tern travels around 24,000 miles each year, equal to almost an entire trip around the globe. Arctic tern lay their eggs and hatch their young in the Arctic region every summer. They migrate 12,000 miles to Antarctica in early autumn each year. They spend spring and summer, from September to May, in Antarctica. Then they fly back to Arctic, another 12,000 miles. They are strong, fast flying birds so they can make the trip in around 40 days.



These are just some of the many animals who migrate each year. Animals are amazing creatures!

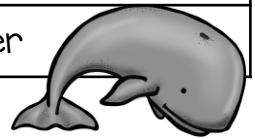
Name \_\_\_\_\_

# ANIMAL MIGRATIONS

**IDENTIFY:** Use the word bank to identify each description.

Arctic Circle	monarch	Canadian geese
leatherback	migration	hummingbird
zebra	Arctic tern	caribou

	1. Migrate in the African savanna each year
	2. Fly south each winter in a "V" formation
	3. Migrates up to 24,000 miles each year
	4. Long journey made by a group of animals
	5. Tiny birds who migrate to the Gulf of Mexico
	6. Turtles who lay their eggs in the sand
	7. Live in the snowy tundra, then migrate south
	8. Butterflies who fly to Mexico each year
	9. Many whales live here during winter



**TRUE OR FALSE?:** Place a check in the correct column.

Statement	T	F
10. Whales migrate north to the Arctic Circle each winter to give birth.		
11. It takes the Arctic tern around 40 days to make their journey.		
12. Hummingbirds typically fly non-stop on their journey to the Gulf.		
13. Monarch butterflies fly north to the United States each winter.		
14. Male leatherback turtles return to their nests after they hatch.		
15. Many animals migrate to find food or breed.		
16. Geese typically fly in an "X" formation to save energy.		
17. Some animals use the Earth's magnetic poles as a guide.		
18. Monarch butterflies lay their eggs in Mexico each year.		

**MULTIPLE CHOICE:** Choose the best answer.

19. Which of the following best describes how the author organized the selection?
- A. She explains what causes animals to migrate each year.
  - B. She explains how animals migrate in chronological order.
  - C. She describes different aspects of animal migrations.
  - D. She describes problems animals encounter during migration and gives solutions.
20. "They are constantly moving following the rainy seasons when food is abundant in particular areas."
- What is the best meaning of abundant in the quote?
- A. Having a lot of something
  - B. Producing a lot of rain
  - C. Only having a small amount of something
  - D. Moving around
21. What is the author's main purpose in writing the selection?
- A. To persuade the reader to study more about animal migrations.
  - B. To inform the reader of what migration is and animals who migrate each year.
  - C. To explain how animals use their senses to migrate each year.
  - D. To entertain the reader with an interesting story about animals who migrate.
22. What is the main reason hummingbirds eat double their body fat before migrating?
- A. They are unable to eat in the Gulf of Mexico.
  - B. They do not have food in the Gulf of Mexico.
  - C. They make the journey to the Gulf of Mexico without stopping.
  - D. They sleep for the majority of the winter.
23. What is the main reason whales migrate to the Arctic Circle during the summer?
- A. This is where they find their food.
  - B. This is where they breed.
  - C. This is where their babies are born each year.
  - D. This is where they cool off.
24. Why do Canadian geese mainly fly in a "V" formation?
- A. To show their rank.
  - B. To save energy.
  - C. To attract food.
  - D. To fly faster.
25. Where do zebras and wildebeests mainly live?
- A. Frozen Tundra
  - B. Gulf of Mexico
  - C. Mexico
  - D. African Savanna



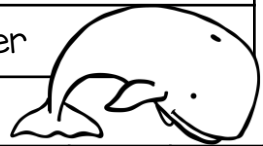
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Canadian geese	2. Fly south each winter in a "V" formation
Arctic tern	3. Migrates up to 24,000 miles each year
migration	4. Long journey made by a group of animals
hummingbird	5. Tiny birds who migrate to the Gulf of Mexico
leatherback	6. Turtles who lay their eggs in the sand
caribou	7. Live in the snowy tundra, then migrate south
monarch	8. Butterflies who fly to Mexico each year
Arctic Circle	9. Many whales live here during winter



**TRUE OR FALSE?:** Place a check in the correct column.

Statement	T	F
10. Whales migrate north to the Arctic Circle each winter to give birth.		X
11. It takes the Arctic tern around 40 days to make their journey.	X	
12. Hummingbirds typically fly non-stop on their journey to the Gulf.	X	
13. Monarch butterflies fly north to the United States each winter.		X
14. Male leatherback turtles return to their nests after they hatch.		X
15. Many animals migrate to find food or breed.	X	
16. Geese typically fly in an "X" formation to save energy.		X
17. Some animals use the Earth's magnetic poles as a guide.	X	
18. Monarch butterflies lay their eggs in Mexico each year.		X

**MULTIPLE CHOICE:** Choose the best answer.

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