

Amazing Animal Journeys: Exploring Migration!

Get ready to explore incredible journeys animals take all around the world!

Step 1: What is Migration? (10 mins)

Ask your student: Have you ever been on a long trip? Why did you go? Animals go on long trips too, sometimes thousands of miles! This special trip is called **migration**.

Activity: Talk about why animals migrate. Main reasons include:

- **Food:** They move to places where food is easier to find during certain seasons.
- **Weather:** They move away from weather that is too hot or too cold.
- **Babies:** They travel to special places to have their babies safely.

On the Map: Look at a world map or globe. Point out how far some animals travel – maybe from the cold Arctic to warm Mexico!

Step 2: Who Migrates? (15 mins)

Ask: What kinds of animals do you think migrate?

Activity: Brainstorm a list together. Think about birds (like geese flying south), butterflies (Monarchs), large mammals (caribou, whales), and even fish (salmon)!

Fun Facts & Visuals: If possible, look up pictures or short video clips of migrating animals like Arctic terns (longest migration!), wildebeest, or sea turtles. Talk about where they start and end their journeys.

Step 3: The Migration Challenge! (15 mins)

Ask: Do you think migration is easy for animals?

Activity - Option 1 (Simple): Talk about challenges: bad weather (storms), predators (other animals trying to eat them), obstacles (mountains, cities, oceans), getting tired, and finding enough food/water along the way.

Activity - Option 2 (Game): Draw a simple winding path on paper. This is the migration route! Add start and finish points. Along the path, write down some challenges (e.g., 'Storm - Miss a turn', 'Predator nearby - Go back 1 space', 'Found food - Move forward 1 space', 'Big mountain - Roll again to cross'). Use a dice and a small toy animal or marker. Roll the dice to move along the path and follow the instructions on the spaces. The goal is to reach the 'Finish' line safely!

Step 4: Map Your Migration! (15 mins)

Activity: Choose one migrating animal you learned about. On a piece of paper, draw a simple map showing where the animal starts its journey and where it ends. Label the start and end points. Draw the route the animal takes. Add symbols or drawings for potential challenges along the way (like a cloud for weather, a drawing of a predator, or wavy lines for an ocean).

Step 5: Wrap Up & Share (5 mins)

Discussion/Assessment:

- What does 'migration' mean?
- Why do animals migrate? (Name one reason)
- Can you name one animal that migrates?
- Show and explain your migration map! What challenges did your animal face?

Great job becoming an animal migration expert today!