

LESSON/ACTIVITY

GOALS

- ✎ Students will learn why birds migrate
- ✎ Students will understand the challenges birds face during migration
- ✎ Students will learn how they can help birds migrate safely

GRADES

First-Third

MATERIALS

- ✎ Migration challenge/survival cards
- ✎ Dice

Why do birds migrate?

Migration is a behavioral adaptation that helps animals survive the changing seasons, a temporary change of environment. Some animals migrate hundreds even thousands of miles every year. Animals are guided by marks in the land like mountains, rivers, and forests as well as the sun, moon, and stars. See below for a few questions to engage your students:

- **Why do you think animals migrate from one place to another?** Warmer weather, more food, a safe place to breed and have babies.
- **How do animals know where to go every year?** Use their memory, they are also guided by marks in the land like mountains, rivers, forest and stars, moon, sun
- **What are some challenges animals face when migrating?** Storms, predator, city lights, window reflection, collisions with tall buildings
- **What birds in our area migrate?** Geese, mallard ducks, swans, sea gulls, red tail hawks, orioles

Migration Activities

- Have students choose a bird from their area that migrates and research it's migration pattern. After students have researched their bird ask them to write their own migration story.
- Have your students write a migration story as a comic strip answering these questions.
 - What bird species are you?
 - Why are you migrating?
 - How will you find your way?
 - What challenges did you face on your migration?
- Act out your migration journey, where did you find food? What were your challenges? Did you survive?
- Play the game "Will you survive Migration" using dice and the migration challenge/survival cards. Set up a migration path with six different stops. At each stop there should be a survival and challenge card, each card will be numbered on the back, survival cards will be numbered even numbers and challenge cards will be numbered odd. Have students roll the dice, if they roll an even number they survived and move on to the next stop on the migration path, if they roll an odd number, they could face a challenge or even die. If they die, they go back to the beginning and start over. When game is finished ask students how humans can help provide a safe migration path for birds.
- Conservation ideas
 - Turn off unnecessary lights from 11pm until sunrise
 - Put a bird, window warning on a glass window or door
 - Protect birds from cats
 - Make your yard a bird paradise for spring migration (provide a flower garden, birds eat insects too)
 - Reduce plastic use, consider using reusable bottles and containers
 - Provide birdfeeders

Discover Further

How can children learn more? Diver deeper? How can we tie into the Zoo?



Migration – Could you Survive?

Include: [Share your lessons with the Fort Wayne Children' Zoo. Tag #fwkidszoo or email education@kidszoo.org to express how you used these supplemental activities!]
