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WANDERING ANIMALS

Migration Stories from the Animal World

Sharlene C. Coombs

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**KNOWLEDGE
BOOKS**

29

Reading Recovery Level: 19

Word Count: 1486 words

Content: Description, Explanation

ACARA F-10 References:

Learning Areas:

English; Humanities and Social Sciences; Science;
Health and Physical Education.

General Capabilities:

Literacy; Critical and Creative Thinking; Personal and Social Capability.

Cross Curriculum Priorities:

Sustainability.

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Teacher Notes:

Animal migration is one of the great wonders of the natural world. For thousands of years, many different animals have come together in huge herds to journey over land, water, and across the skies. Their animal instinct helps them find their way to food, water, mating, and breeding grounds. Along the way, they keep their ecosystem healthy and strong and help sustain the balance it needs to survive.

Discussion points for consideration:

1. Why do you think animals often migrate in large numbers? Discuss the term, “safety in numbers”.
2. Discuss the problem with putting up fences along the wildebeest migration path. What other animals are impacted by this?
3. Why do we need to conserve these migrations? Discuss ecosystem balance and how these animals are part of the much larger food web.

Difficult words to be introduced and practised before reading this book:

migration, thousands, kilometres, Antarctica, Southern, Australia, pregnant, calves, Pacific, protected, curious, Queensland, September, tourist, beautiful, wildebeest, antelope, Africa, Serengeti, annual, crocodile, predators, scavengers, pollution, challenges, researchers.

Contents

1. What is Animal Migration?
2. Why do Animals Migrate?
3. When do Animals Migrate?
4. Humpback Whales
5. Wildebeest
6. Christmas Island Red Crab
7. Green Turtle
8. Migration Challenges





1. What is Animal Migration?

Animals are very clever! Some animals can survive with little food and water. If they run short of food or water, some animals even know where to find it.

Some animals even return to the place where they were born. This can be thousands of kilometres away. This is called animal migration.

Migration means to travel a long distance from one place to another. Some animals have been migrating for thousands of years. Why do you think they do this?



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2. Why do Animals Migrate?

Animals migrate for different reasons. Often, it is to search for food or water. Sometimes they migrate to find a mate. Other animals migrate to a better climate.

Many different animal groups migrate. Often, they will migrate together in huge numbers. This can happen across land, across water, or in the sky.



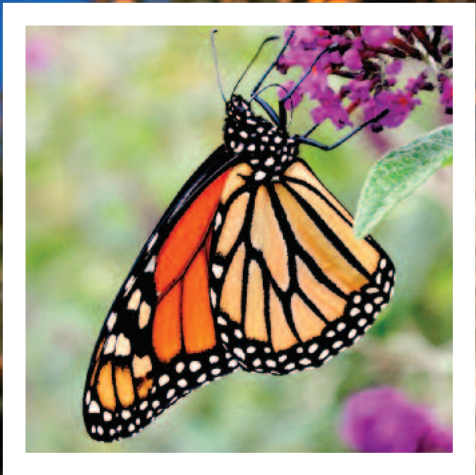


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3. When do Animals Migrate?

Animals migrate in time with the seasons. They can travel many kilometres across land. Some animals migrate across large oceans. Some birds migrate from one country to another. They can fly thousands of kilometres during their journey.

However, all animals that migrate have one thing in common. They all return back to where they came from. This can take weeks, months, or even years to happen.



4. Humpback Whales

Humpback whales are huge mammals. They eat krill and small fish. Krill look like tiny prawns or shrimp.

It takes a lot of krill to keep a humpback whale happy! This is why they spend their summer in the waters around Antarctica. The waters there are full of krill.

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