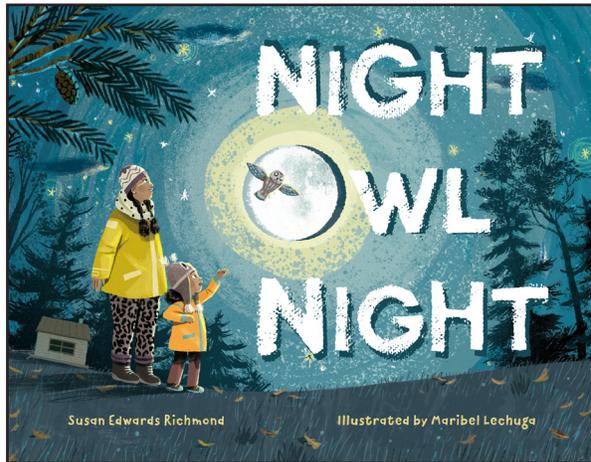


NIGHT OWL NIGHT ACTIVITY KIT

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Susan Edwards Richmond
Illustrated by Maribel Lechuga
978-1-62354-251-1 HC
e-book available

About the Book

Sova's mother is a scientist who studies birds and their migratory patterns. Each night she goes into the woods to conduct research, and finally Sova is old enough to join her. Securing headlamps, Sova and her mother head into the woods to capture, measure, and release saw-whet owls. Through the quiet night, Sova learns about the patience, persistence, and excitement that comes with conservation efforts and scientific research.

About the Author

Susan Edwards Richmond is the author of the award-winning picture book *Bird Count* and *Bioblitz! Counting Critters*. A passionate birder and naturalist, Susan teaches preschool on a farm and wildlife sanctuary in eastern Massachusetts. She earned her MA in creative writing from the University of California, Davis and is an award-winning poet with five collections of nature-based poetry for adults. *Night Owl Night* is her fourth picture book.



About the Illustrator

As a child, Maribel Lechuga spent every quiet hour of the day drawing. She studied illustration in art school in Madrid and is now the illustrator of many children's books, including *Ten Beautiful Things* and *Seaside Stroll*. Maribel loves the environment and animals and recharges her batteries by hiking through the Spanish hills.

NIGHT OWL NIGHT Activity Kit

Before Reading

Pre-reading concept reviews help enrich students' learning experience!

For younger students (K-2nd):

- After looking at the cover of the book and reading the title, ask students what they think *Night Owl Night* is about. Write their responses on chart paper.
- Explain what an owl is. Discuss how it is like and unlike other birds, including its habits, diet, and range in the wild.
- Look at the "Common Northern Forest Owls" section in the back of the book and discuss the differences among the owl species. Use the QR codes to hear each owl's call.

For older students (3rd-5th):

- Based on the title and cover, ask students to describe what they think the book is about. Write their responses on chart paper.
- Have students discuss the following questions in small groups. Tape questions to a wall and ask students to tape their answers beneath the questions.
 - What is migration?
 - How do scientists study owls?
 - Do owls live near us? If so, what species?
- Read the "Saw-Whet Owl Banding" section in the back of the book and discuss the categories of data included on the clipboard. How do students think scientists might use this data? Is there any other data they think should be collected?

**NIGHT
OWL
NIGHT**
Activity Kit

Math: Night Owl Numbers

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Sova bands ten owls in October and two owls in November. How many owls has Sova banded?
2. Sova's net catches five owls. Two of them have bands already. How many owls does Sova have left to band?
3. Sova has fifteen bands. She bands five owls in October and five in November. How many bands does Sova have left?
4. Owl #0904-34985 flies 50 miles from Massachusetts to Connecticut, then 240 miles from Connecticut to New Jersey. How far has owl #0904-34985 flown?

NIGHT OWL NIGHT Activity Kit

Science: Winter Is Coming

Use a guided discussion and digital resources to explore migration and seasonal animal behavior.

Materials:

- Poster paper or a whiteboard
- A video-capable display screen or projector

Procedure:

1. **Introduction.** Dramatically announce to your students that winter is coming, then ask them a question: How do animals know when winter is coming? Geese, salmon, and bears don't have calendars.
2. **Brainstorming about seasonal changes.** Break students into small groups to discuss the question. Then call the class back together to share their ideas. Write student suggestions down on a sheet of poster paper or a whiteboard. If students are stuck, give them hints about changing temperatures, seasonal weather patterns, the changing length of days, and changes in the behavior of plants and animals.
3. **Connect to the animal behavior concept of migration.** Ask students: So winter is coming. So what? Why do animals need to know when winter is coming? Invite students to share some suggestions, then show the class the video "Migrations: Big Animal Trips | Science for Kids" by *SciShow Kids* <<https://youtu.be/hMAS4SdPj-w>>. After the video, discuss: What did students learn?
4. **Apply learned concepts to *Night Owl Night*.** Now that students know more about migration, read or reread *Night Owl Night* and discuss: Why do saw-whet owls migrate? Refer to the back matter and other sources, such as the Audubon Guide to North American Birds <<https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/northern-saw-whet-owl>> and the Owl Research Institute <<https://www.owlresearchinstitute.org/copy-of-northern-saw-whet-owl>>.
5. **Post-discussion writing.** Invite students to write about migration in their journals for fifteen to twenty minutes. For students who would like prompts, consider the following questions:
 - What animals do you know of that migrate?
 - Why do animals migrate?
 - Do you and/or your family travel? How are your trips like or unlike animal migration?
 - What are some other seasonal behavior changes in animals?

NIGHT OWL NIGHT

Activity Kit

Owl Word Search

Name: _____

Date: _____

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

OWL
BANDING
SCIENTIST

MIGRATE
NETS
SAWHET

SCREECH
HORNED
BARRED

NIGHT OWL NIGHT

Activity Kit

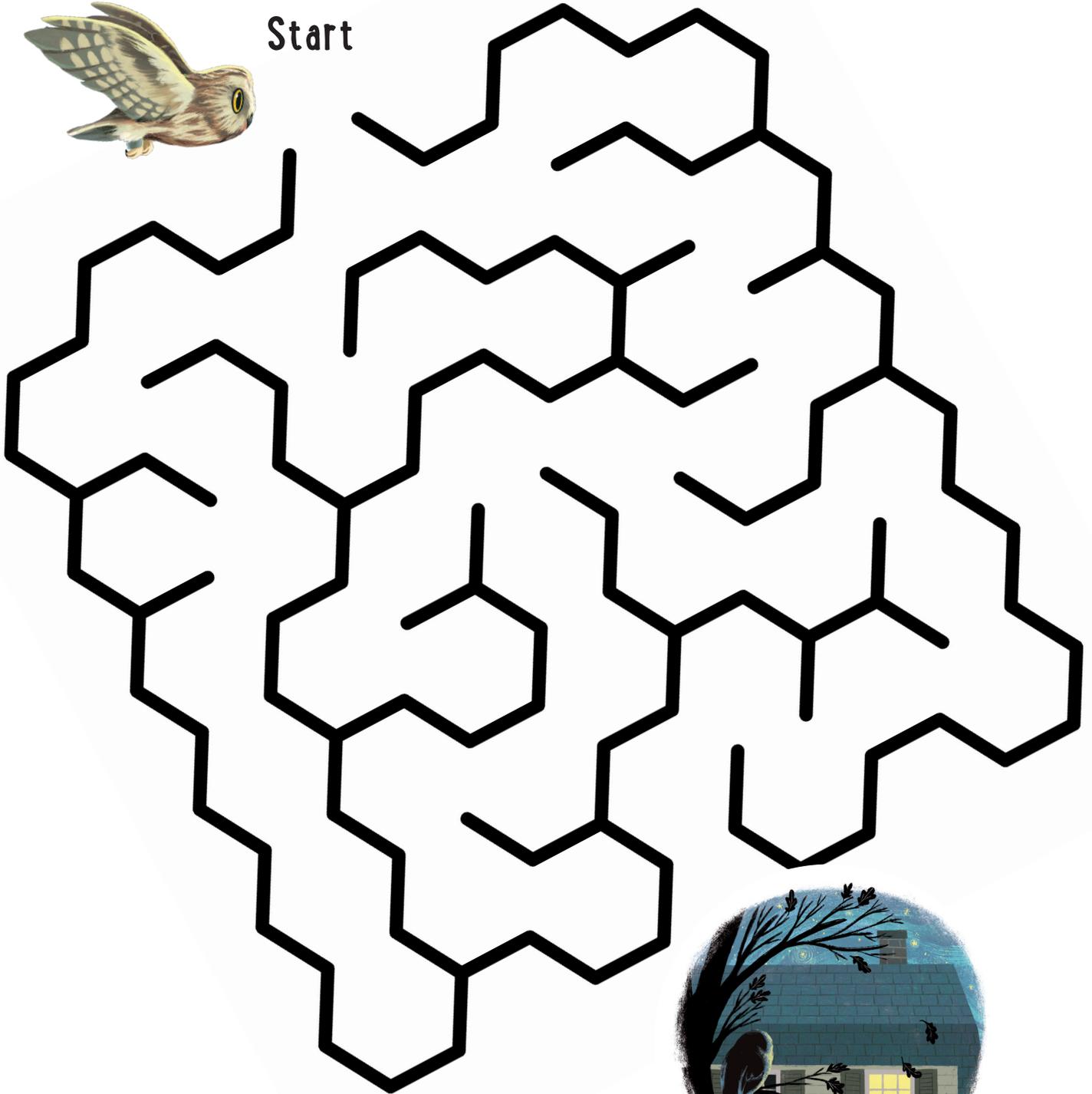
Migration Maze

Name: _____

Date: _____



Start



End