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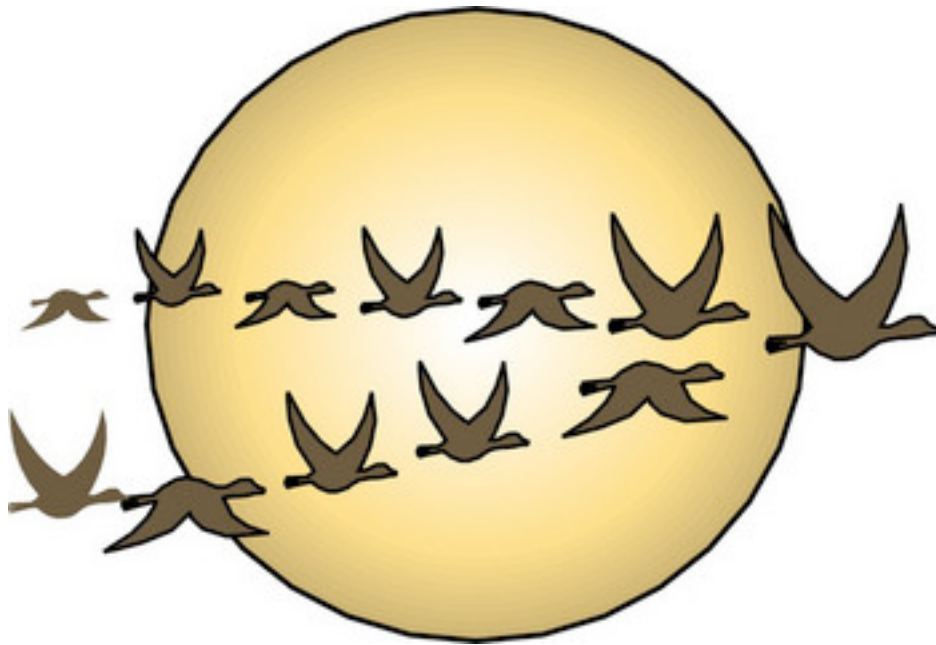
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# *Animal Migration*



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Animal Migration



Migration is the movement of animals, usually in large groups, from one home to another. Some animals migrate once a year and others do it several times a year. They move to a new place to live. They cover long distances.

Millions of animals move thousands of miles. They seem to know just where they are going and how to get there. Most of them also know how to migrate back.

Migration is often used to get out of cold areas when winter is coming. By going to warmer parts of the Earth the animals are able to find food and stay warm. If they could not do this they would probably die.

**Millions of animals move several times year.**



Read the sentences below. Fill in the blanks.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is often used to get out of cold areas when winter is coming.
2. If some animals did not migrate they would probably \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. Some animals migrate once a year and others do it \_\_\_\_\_ times.



# Animal Migration

Some animals fly while others run. Still other animals swim when they migrate. There are animals that migrate only at night.



Large animals like whales, and small animals like insects migrate. Usually they travel in groups. Sometimes these groups can have thousands or even millions of members. Many of them die along the way.

There are large number of ways to migrate, and all creatures do it differently. Some of them move without forming groups while others can darken the sky with their numbers.



There are a large number of ways to migrate. Write some of the reasons animals migrate. Write your answer in complete sentences.

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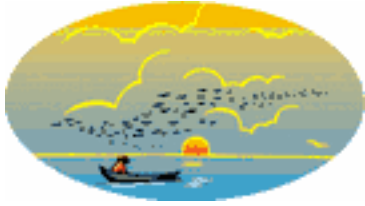
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# Animal Migration



One type of bird may fly low to the ground while another will fly so high you can hardly see it. Some animals eat along the way, and others will go a long time without eating.

Many whales migrate each year. They move towards the equator in autumn and away from it in spring. Most of the whales end up in warm tropical waters sometime during the year.

Some whales go from the southern half of the Earth to the Equator. Others get to the Equator from the north. They arrive near the Equator at different times and do not mix with each other.



Draw a picture of whales migrating.



# Animal Migration

It is not unusual for whales to swim thousands of miles to migrate. They often go for months without eating. They have to swim through areas of the ocean where there is not much food so this ability to go a long time without eating is very important.



When there is no food the whales live off of their body reserves. They tend to swim close to land areas and stay clear of the centers of the oceans.

Most whales will go to cold waters for feeding. Whales travel to warmer water to give birth to baby whales. Baby whales have very thin layer of blubber.

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Read the questions below. Circle the correct answer and write it on the lines.

1. It is not unusual for whales to migrate \_\_\_\_\_ of miles.

hundreds    millions    thousands

2. When there is no food the whales live off their \_\_\_\_\_ reserves.

ocean    fin    body

3. Most whales go to \_\_\_\_\_ waters for feeding.

warm    cold    frozen



4. Most whales go to \_\_\_\_\_ waters to give birth to baby whales.

warm    cold    frozen

# Animal Migration

One of the most spectacular land animal migrations is done by the wildebeest. Huge herds of wildebeests live in a place called the Serengeti Plain in Africa.



When there is plenty of rain they spread out all over the eastern part of the plain. After February, the rainy season ends, and the plain starts to dry out. The wildebeests form large groups near rivers and streams.

The herds need fresh grazing land, and they move west to find it. They also move north. During the summer they stay close to the rivers.

By October the rainy season has started in the north, and the rains slowly move south. At the start of the rainy season, in the north, the wildebeest have plenty of food, and this is when they give birth. Year after year they move around the Serengeti Plain in similar patterns.



Unscramble the words below. Write them on the lines.

ouths

\_\_\_\_\_

niras

\_\_\_\_\_

ssoaen

\_\_\_\_\_

gzranig

\_\_\_\_\_

vresir

\_\_\_\_\_

# Animal Migration

Another animal that is famous for its migrations is a lemming. It is not really a true migrator, because it just moves without coming back. We call this emigration.



The lemmings produce a lot of young. If the weather is good their population grows very fast. Each lemming burrow can have as many as twenty five young in it.

The land they live on gets so crowded that they are forced to leave in search of food. Huge hordes of lemmings rush off with no direction in mind.



Write a sentence or two about lemmings.

Handwriting practice area with eight horizontal lines inside an orange rounded rectangle.

# Animal Migration

Lemmings get tense and nervous. They almost seem to panic. Relentlessly they move on until they die in one way or another. Often they try to swim across large rivers or fjords in great masses. Large numbers of them drown.

A few young adults remain behind. This is where the next generation of lemmings comes from. The lemming emigration is like a migration only because it is a large movement of animals to another place.



It is different because it is used to reduce the population so much, and the lemmings do not come back. Some animals move from place to place with no special pattern. They end up in many places purely by chance. This is called Nomadism.

Draw a picture of an animal that migrates.



# Animal Migration

Most insects spend their entire lives in one area. A few of them are great migrators. Some of these move in such large groups in the sky that they look like moving clouds.

Locusts migrate in large groups call swarms. Migrating locust swarms can cover hundreds of square miles. They eat all vegetation in their way. They can make green fertile areas look like wastelands in a short period of time.



Butterflies also migrate. The monarch is the most known butterfly for its migration. The monarch butterfly travels great distances. They migrate to warm weather. They start their migration in August - October or until the first frost. They fly from Canada and from most states that have cold weather. Usually they migrate to some southern state in the United States but mostly to Mexico.



The butterflies migrate north in the spring. The female butterfly lays eggs on milkweed. This new generation will also migrate north. This cycle goes on from year to year.

Draw a picture of a monarch butterflies.



# Animal Migration

At one time large herds of migrating buffalo were common in the United States. Most of them were killed by man. This also did great damage to many Indian tribes. Many Indians depended on the buffalo for food, clothing and tools.



Migration is usually something that improves animals chances to survive. It does not always work this way. Sometimes man gets in the way.

In the 1800's, millions of passenger pigeons used to darken the sky of the United States when they migrated. People killed them in large numbers and by 1914, they were all gone.



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Read each sentence below. Fill in the missing word..

1. In the 1800's, millions of passenger \_\_\_\_\_ darkened the sky when they migrated.
2. Indians depended on the buffalo for food, clothing, and \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. Large herds of \_\_\_\_\_ were common in the United States.

# Animal Migration

Read each sentence. Write the correct answer on the line.

1. Migration is the \_\_\_\_\_ of animals.

2. Some animals \_\_\_\_\_ once a year.

3. Millions of animals move \_\_\_\_\_ of miles a year.

4. Most animals migrate in \_\_\_\_\_ .

5. Some animals migrate only at \_\_\_\_\_ .

6. Some whales go from the southern half of the Earth to the \_\_\_\_\_ .

7. Whales move towards the equator in the \_\_\_\_\_ .

8. One of the most spectacular land animal migrations is done by the \_\_\_\_\_ .



# Animal Migration



Read each sentence. Write the correct answer on the line.

9. People killed carrier \_\_\_\_\_ in large numbers.
10. Migration is usually something that improves an animals chance of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ .
11. At one time large herds of \_\_\_\_\_ were common in the United States.
12. Many Indians depended on the buffalo for food, clothing, and \_\_\_\_\_ .
13. Butterflies and locusts migrate in large groups called \_\_\_\_\_ .
14. Animals that end up in many places purely by chance is called \_\_\_\_\_ .
15. \_\_\_\_\_ move but do not come back.



# Animal Migration



## WORD UNSCRAMBLE

Unscramble each word and print the word on the line.

etragim

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lyf

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niwert

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smrsaw

---

othus

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sstolcu

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# Animal Migration

## Spelling

Print the correct spelling word on the line.



1. buterfly  
butterfli  
butterfly

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2. sowth  
souht  
south

---

3. lemings  
lemmings  
lemongs

---

4. migrate  
mygate  
migreat

---

5. swarms  
sworms  
swirims

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6. whailes  
whales  
whials

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# Animal Migration

## WORD FIND

Find and circle these words.  
They run down, across, and diagonally.

birds  
groups  
swim

butterfly  
animals  
travel

migrate  
instinct  
whales

movement  
fly  
wildebeest

i e r o z j b r l b n q c y m  
d r t m w c l p h z q l h l x  
v i w i n s t i n c t l z f y  
q a n i m a l s l u g l v r s  
e s g q l o j v t m z e j e w  
i p s b g d m j n z h v y t g  
g u i x v b e t e i r a g t e  
c o n b e t t b m d m r i u f  
u r s h u b t m e q i t g b p  
q g d o w d z u v e w v c q v  
d c r l z h n y o h s k m q m  
i h i z w b a a m j k t e z g  
g o b p u r i l c n e h f k o  
k u m i g r a t e f l y k x b  
n r h c z e l h f s m y d z x



# Animal Migration

## CRISS CROSS

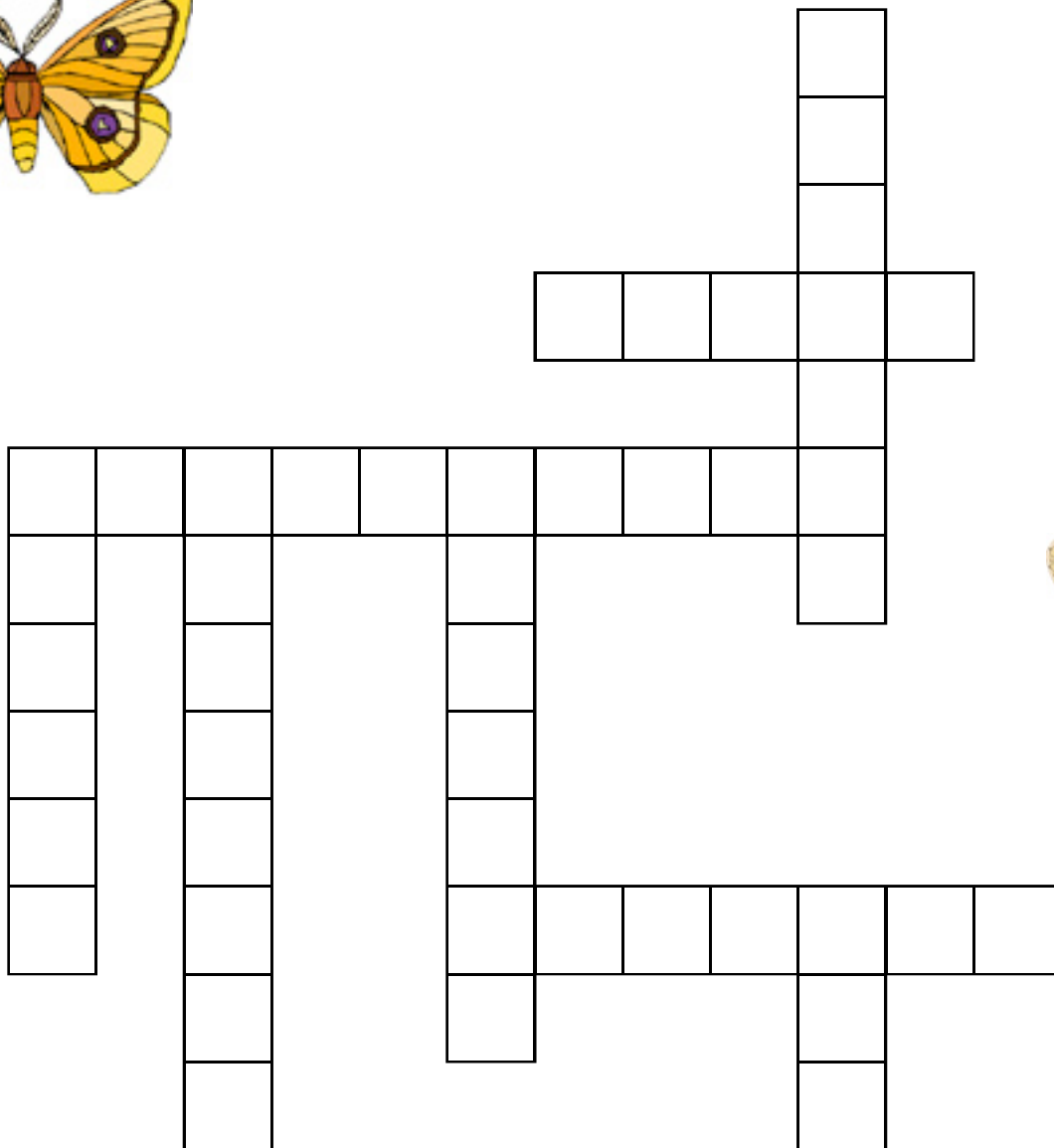
Can you fit these words into the criss cross?  
Use a pencil so you can erase if you need to.

migrate  
sky

winter  
buffalo

wildebeest  
locust

lemmings  
swarm





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